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2 good friends gift their OFW moms in Taipei, Rome

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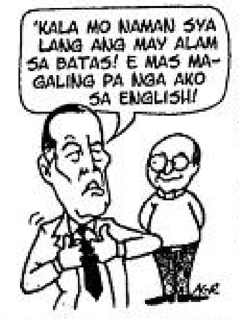
First church in the round by Leandro Locsin now a historical site in Diliman

Fr. Bernas: From law dean to 'guru of destabilization'


'KALA MO NAMAN SYA LANG ANG MAY ALAM SA BATAS! E MAS MAGALING PA NGA AKO SA ENGLISH!

By Armand N. Nocum

FROM LAW DEAN EMERITUS to guru of destabilization?

The Department of Justice now considers constitutionalist and INQUIRER columnist Fr.

FR. BERNAS/ A19

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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COA: Cebu NGO used Marcos money for fertilizer

By Philip C. Tubeza

A NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION IN CEBU used P6 million in recovered assets of the late President Ferdinand Marcos to buy fertilizer allegedly overpriced by 1,092 percent, a Commission on Audit (COA) report said.

The Kasosyo Foundation was one of three NGOs that received a total of P29 million in Marcos funds to buy farm inputs for the Department

COA/ A6

GMA talks tough at PMA

FIRSTS IN MILITARY HISTORY: 37 women cadets belong to PMA Class 2006, the largest number of women graduated from the academy. President Arroyo socializes with some of them at the dinner she hosted at the presidential Mansion in Baguio City on Friday. With 324 graduates, the class is also the biggest to graduate in the PMA's 108-year history. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

THE VALEDICTORIAN of the PMA Mandala Class, Cadet Ariel M. Toledo at Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City, is congratulated by Ms Arroyo. An orphan, Toledo thanked his four OFW sisters for making him what he is today. His siblings supported him financially and spiritually. LYN RILLON

'No more slap on wrists, pushups for disloyal soldiers'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—THE WORD "LOYALTY" was writ in bold letters on the facade of a building facing them, but President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday still made sure the country's newest crop of young officers understood her message.

The virus of military adventurism will be stamped out and the disloyal ones will no longer be penalized with a slap on the wrist or with pushups but punished to the hilt, she said in so many words.

And apparently to further placate a restive military and win the loyalty of its 120,000 men, Ms Arroyo also dangled a juicy carrot—a P40-billion budget for the defense reform program that should enable the military to buy more guns, upgrade training facilities, and professionalize its ranks.

"We cannot keep sweeping disloyalty under the rug. We cannot even allow disloyalty to face the rug with a few pushups," Ms Arroyo told graduating cadets of the Philippine Military Academy.

"We must sweep disloyalty out of our house, once and for all, and let the sunshine in. We owe it to you to keep the temptation of politics out of your reach."

Ms Arroyo wore a military-grey suit, talked tough and looked self-assured as she addressed the 324 graduating cadets, a month after nipping in the bud what Malacañang said was a coup plot against her.

The graduates, belonging to Class Mandala—an acronym for *Mandirigmang Dangal ng Lahi*—sat erect facing a building where the PMA honor code of "Courage, Integrity, Loyalty" is emblazoned in bold letters. They included 37 females.

PMA Superintendent Brig. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig said rebel soldiers belonging to the Magdalo group, using emissaries, last year tried to recruit three members of the Mandala Class.

At a dinner with the cadets on Friday at the presidential Mansion, Ms Arroyo talked with the trio but it was not known what she told them.

Two Mandala members, speaking on

GMA/ A18

Museum is living tribute to man truly for others

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SILANG, CAVITE—WHEN A SHANGHAI-based Filipino graphic designer learned last month that the museum in honor of the late Msgr. Aloysius Phillip Schwartz would be inaugurated on March 18, he made sure that his demanding schedule would not get in the way of his attendance.

For Jhun Mariano, 32, the museum at the Girlstown complex here is no ordinary structure but a celebration of the life and sacrifices of a Catholic missionary who helped transform the lives of impoverished Filipinos like himself.

Fondly called Father Al by the people who had worked with him, Schwartz founded two congregations—the Sisters of Mary and the Brothers of Christ—dedicated to the aid of the poorest of the poor.

Father Al also established the charity schools Boystown and Girlstown in Korea, Guatemala and Mexico. Six years before a debilitating disease caused his painful death in 1992, he set up the same charity schools on a five-hectare lot in Sta. Mesa, Manila, primarily to help orphans and street children.

Looking back, Mariano, now a jetsetting graphic designer of a big advertising firm whose main office is based in Dubai, recalled how Father Al and Boystown helped him realize the dreams that he thought were impossible then.

"Father Al, a very simple man, was really a man for others. He was a perfect example of humility and service to others," Mariano told the INQUIRER.

On March 18, Mariano and hundreds of others whose lives were changed by Father Al witnessed the inauguration of the museum and retreat house established in his name.

Among those present were Korean laymen, priests and nuns. (It was in Busan, South Korea, at the height of the Korean War in the 1950s, that Father Al began his work as a young American missionary.)

MUSEUM/ A6

Valedictorian urges 'life of daily heroism'

By Frank Cimatu and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—THE TOP graduate of the Philippine Military Academy this year called on the country's youth yesterday to "seize the day" and follow his class's example of living lives of quiet, daily heroism.

The Philippine Army's newest 2nd Lt., Ariel Toledo, the valedictorian of the 324-member Mandala Class of 2006, knows whereof he speaks.

An orphan from Santo Domingo, Ilo-

VALEDICTORIAN/ A18

Northern Marianas first lady is a Filipino

By Agnes E. Donato
Contributor

SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANAS—First Lady Josepina Padiermos Fitial has been viewed by many in this US territory as a liability to her husband's political career.

But this woman of Philippine origin may actually be Benigno R. Fitial's greatest source of strength.

Josie, as she is called by her family and friends, has been married for 22 years to Fitial, the newly installed governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Located in the western Pacific, this island chain of 80,000 people has been her home for about the same period.

Josie came to Saipan in the early 1980s as a new graduate of the University of the East, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Given the length of her stay here, this native of Nueva Ecija is no stranger to life on the islands, particularly to its intense politics.

After Fitial lost in his first run for the governorship in 2001, accusing fingers immediately pointed at his wife and her roots.

Her critics said that the islands had

NORTHERN/ A17

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JOSIE FITIAL, a native of Nueva Ecija, does her own housework at the mansion.

GMA bats for Cha-cha; signature drive intensifies

By Gil Cabacungan Jr., Philip Tubeza and Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday bared her strong determination to push her Charter change agenda as local officials across the country held simultaneous barangay assemblies and intensified their house-to-house campaign to gather signatures for a people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution.

Saying she would risk becoming more unpopular for it, Ms Arroyo made a strong pitch for Cha-cha to the top brass of the military whose crucial support enabled her to survive the most serious challenge to her leadership posed by the elite combat units of the military and the police.

"I have made tough decisions. My economic journey has not been easy, and my popularity has suffered, but it (Charter change) is a cause worth fighting for. Political reform won't be any easier than economic reform and my popularity may suffer again, but it is another cause worth fighting for," the President said in her speech at the graduation ceremonies of Class 2006 of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City yesterday.

Among the unpopular measures the President has implemented were the increase in the value-added tax, the pre-emptive calibrated response, Executive Order No. 464 which bars government officials from testifying in congressional hearings without her approval and, recently, Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 which placed the country under a state of emergency.

The President stressed that many aspects of society must be fixed and transformed if the nation were to join the First World within the next 20 years.

"We must have the courage to change our economic system and to overhaul the policies and institutions of the government so that our economy works for the poor, not just the rich," she said.

International credit rating firm Standard & Poor's, however, said that Cha-cha would not affect the country's credit rating so long as fiscal reforms were sustained.

GMA/ A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains which may cause floodings over Eastern Visayas and Eastern Mindanao. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/03/26/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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RP-backed int'l tripartite forum is born

UNITED NATIONS – THE PHILIPPINES HAS launched a new partnership of governments, UN agencies and civil society organizations to promote interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence at a time of growing intolerance.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said Friday (yesterday in Manila) the Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation and Peace would develop practical measures and recognize grass roots initiatives, especially by leaders who try to build bridges between faiths "in towns and villages where extremists plant the deadly seeds of intolerance."

The forum would work outside the United Nations but support UN programs aimed at bringing different religions and cultures together, as well as support initiatives at the national, regional and international level, he said. Its founding statement stressed the secular nature of the partnership.

Representatives from more than 50 countries, several UN agencies and dozens of nongovernmental organizations attended a luncheon hosted by Romulo to officially launch the forum.

"Many of us have seen and felt the tragic consequences when terror and conflict are fueled by those who exploit differences in faiths and beliefs," Romulo told the forum's supporters.

"But increasingly, all of us are fighting back, armed with the profound resolve to build peace, understanding and tolerance by fostering dialogue and cooperation among faiths, cultures and civilizations," he added.

"I thank you for your vision of a world where faith can be a force for peace, understanding, development and human dignity – a world where dark forces are no longer able to subvert religion to sow hatred, death and destruction," Romulo said.

UN General Assembly President Jan Eliasson of Sweden called the forum "a wonderful initiative," saying it was critical today to ensure that "we stand for respect and for tolerance."

"We live in an age of turmoil. We live in an age where religious and ethnic divisions are evident, and where sometimes religious and ethnic divisions are exploited by certain groups to make our cooperation, our respect for each other, less evident than it should be," he said.

"We run a great risk in today's world that these divisions are going deeper and that we bring about rifts and gaps that are not there in us as. human beings," Eliasson warned.

"We must complement and mutually reinforce other initiatives, particularly the Alliance of Civilizations," he added.

The Alliance of Civilizations is a 2005 initiative by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the prime ministers of Spain and Turkey aimed at bringing together institutions and civil society to bridge prejudices and misunderstandings between peoples of different cultures and religions.

Ambassadors from a number of countries, including Guatemala, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Spain and Guinea-Bissau, also spoke at the launch along with representatives from Unesco (UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Office) and Unicef (UN children's Fund) and several NGOs led by the World Conference of Religions for Peace.

The apolitical forum was created in response to a recommendation by the Conference on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace held at the UN headquarters last June.

The June parley was attended by representatives of 16 countries – Argentina, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Gambia, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Spain, Thailand and Tunisia.

It was also attended by representatives of the World Bank, Unesco and religious nongovernmental organizations.

President Macapagal-Arroyo hosted an informal meeting of leaders of the countries that sponsored the conference on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's ministerial meeting in September. *AP and AFP*

Joker decries dearth of Pinoy cardinals

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHY AREN'T THERE MORE FILipino cardinals?

Maverick Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday wondered why the Philippines, which has the largest Catholic population in Asia, effectively has only one active "Prince of the Church."

Arroyo said that while the elevation of Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales to the College of Cardinals was "a recognition of the formidable number of Catholics in Asia," the country's 69 million Catholics should have more representatives in the Pope's body of advisers.

"Numbers is power," said Arroyo, arguing that the Philippines should have more "red hats [referring to the tri-cornered hats of cardinals] befitting our stature in Catholicism in this part of the globe."

Asked if the Philippines was being taken for granted, Arroyo said: "That is a perennial question. Our eternal folly."

He noted that the country's two other cardinals were no longer active: Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal who has retired but whose term has been extended and retired Jose Cardinal Sanchez who lives in Rome.

"Why is it that the Philippines has only one active cardinal?" Arroyo asked in a telephone interview.

He noted that the Philippines was the third largest Catholic country in the world in terms of the number of its Catholic population, after Brazil (184 million Catholics) and Mexico (142 million).

The United States, which is in 4th place with 64 million Catholics, has 13 cardinals.

Arroyo said Japan had only 500,000 Catholics but has one cardinal. And Hong Kong with 350,000 Catholics, many of whom are Filipino domestics, also has "a newly minted cardinal" of its own, he said.

"India has 17 million Catholics, or around one-fourth the number of 69 million Filipino Catholics, but it has two [active] cardinals," Arroyo said.

"In other words, two-thirds of the (Asian) Catholic population is in the Philippines...Yet we have only three of the 14 Asian cardinals or 21 percent," he lamented.

Academics have said the Philippines could become one of the centers of world Catholicism as the religion's demographic center moves from the developed West to the so-called global South.

They have noted the declining number of Catholics in the Catholic heartlands of Europe while the churches in Africa and Asia are growing.

In Metro Manila alone, there are more Catholics (8 million) than in the entire United Kingdom (4.8 million), the Netherlands (5 million) or Australia (5.2 million).

Religious studies expert Philip Jenkins of the Pennsylvania State University, noted that the annual baptism total for the Philippines is higher than those of Italy, France, Spain and Poland combined.

If demographic trends continue, the number of Filipino Catholics could grow to 90 million by 2025, and may even reach 130 million by 2050, he added.

Erap may never see inside of prison – lawyer

By Norman Bordadora

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada might not have to spend a single day in jail even if he is convicted of the capital crime of plunder, according to a former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

This is because Estrada, who turns 70 next year with limited prospects of his trial coming to an end before then, would come under the purview of Memorandum Order No. 155 issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Nov. 17, 2004.

The memorandum grants clemency to septuagenarians serving sentences by final judgment, so that "the chances of Erap staying in jail [are] very unlikely," said Leonard de Vera, convenor of Equal Justice for All Movement or E-Just.

"If she [the President] could release a drug queen, why couldn't she release a former President," De Vera told the Kapihan sa Sulo forum in Quezon City yesterday.

Maxima Cristobal, alias Doña Mameng, a convicted drug dealer, was released as a result of MO 155.

All inmates at least 70 years old and serving sentences by final judgment in prisons across the country "are to be given back their liberty out of compassion and on humanitarian grounds" under MO 155.

The MO has instructed jail wardens to immediately forward to the Office of the President records of eligible inmates about to turn 70 for possible inclusion in the President's plans to grant clemency.

De Vera said he expected Estrada's trial at the Sandiganbayan antigraft court to end in December. But the appeals process before the Supreme Court could take long and he may be at least 70 years old when final judgement on his case is rendered. Estrada turns 70 in April 2007.

The lawyer also doubted that the Arroyo government would allow Estrada to be executed. He doubted the President would enforce a court decision sentencing Estrada to death.

"If she would not allow executions of those convicted of murder, how much more in plunder cases where there is no life lost," De Vera said.

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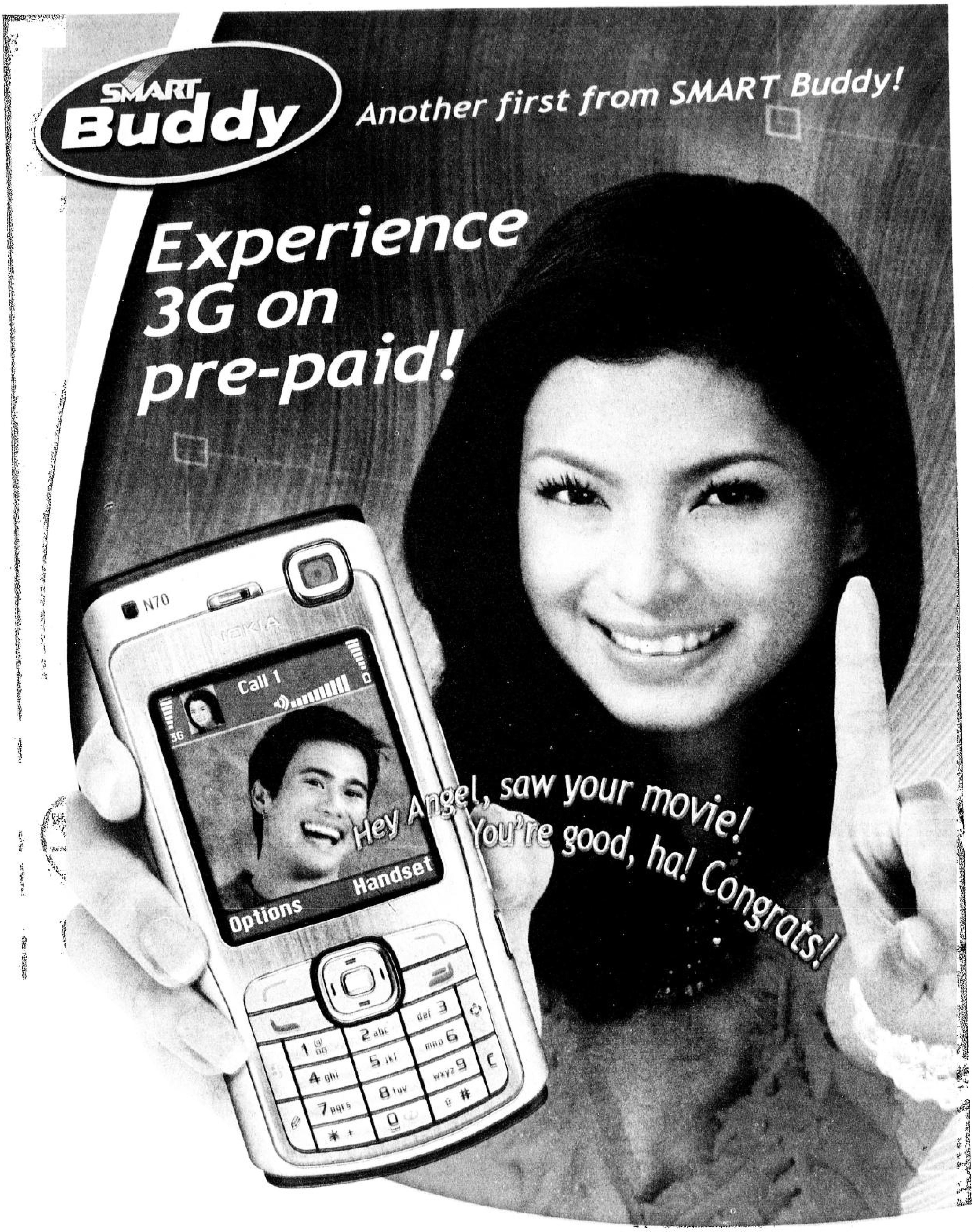
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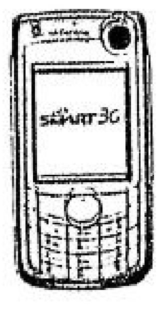
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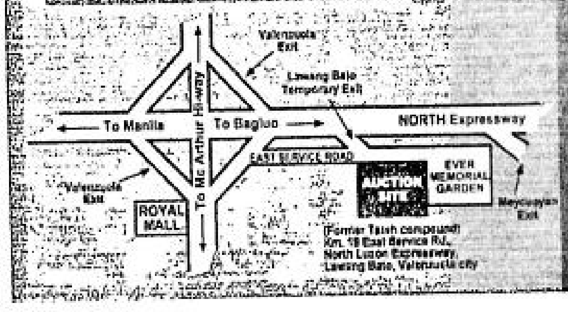
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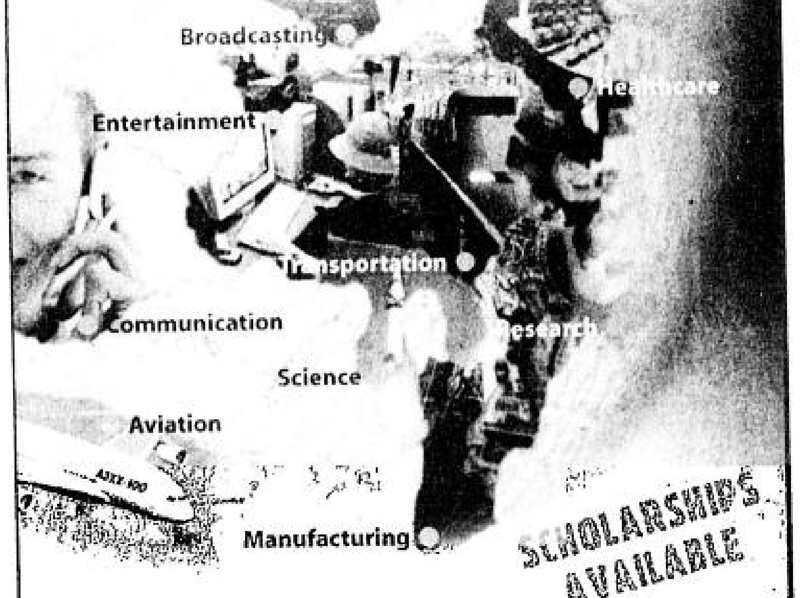
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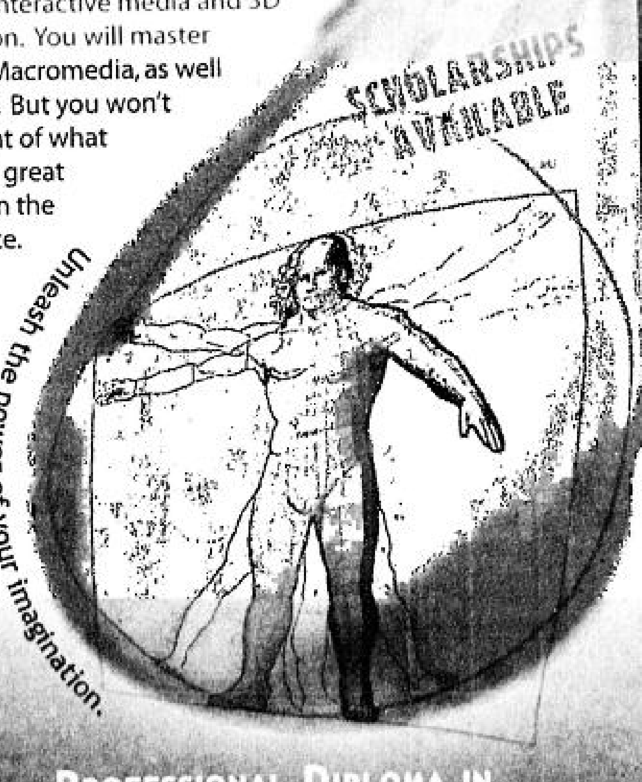
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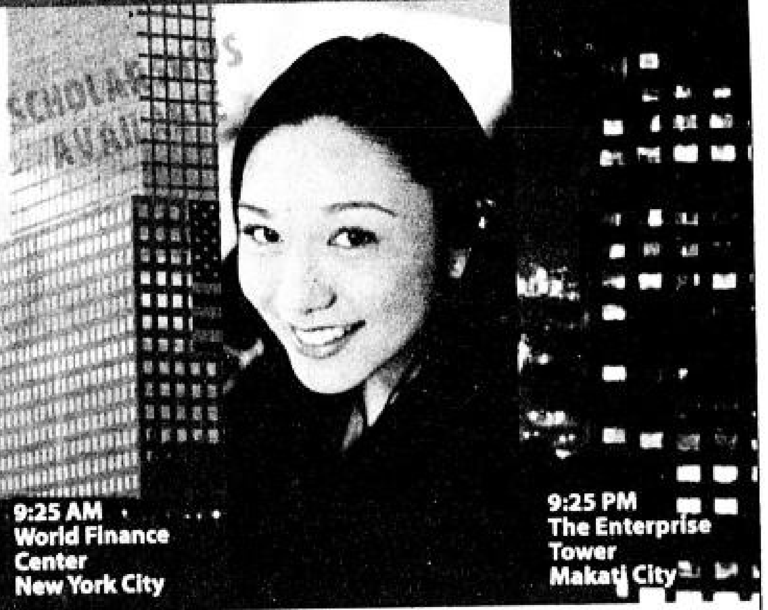
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Prelate seeks due process for leftist congressmen

DAVAO ARCHBISHOP FERNANDO CAPALLA has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to exert efforts to ensure that due process will be accorded to five party-list representatives facing rebellion charges.

"As a Filipino and a Christian, it is my duty to support them, aside from my prayers, by appealing respectfully to Your Excellency that the right to due process must be respected and observed in their regard in their capacity both as citizens and as members of Congress," Capalla said in a letter to Ms Arroyo dated March 17 but only made public Friday night.

Capalla, former president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, Liza Maza of Gabriela and Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis earlier wrote him to ask for his "utmost support and prayers in these trying times."

During Capalla's term as CBCP president last year, Catholic bishops refused to join calls for the resignation of Ms Arroyo at the height of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal.

The lawmakers are known to the public as the "Batasan 5," so-called because they have sought refuge from arrest at and are still ensconced in the House of Representatives building—the Batasan Pambansa in Quezon City—in the custody of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

The five, identified with the Left, have been accused by the government of being part of a "rightist-leftist conspiracy" to overthrow the Arroyo administration through a coup d'etat and a "people power" show of force.

They have managed to dodge the fate of a sixth party-list representative, Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis, who was arrested late last month on rebellion charges and who remains detained at the national police headquarters in Camp Crame.

Capalla noted that since the state of emergency proclaimed last month by the President had been lifted, "the demands of public order must now be balanced against the rights of citizens through an appropriate and human implementation of the rule of law."

"I see this as a moral imperative towards restoring respect and confidence in government," he added. *Jerome Aning and Dona Pazzibugan*

Bro. Eddie, more execs oppose STL

JESUS IS LORD LEADER BRO. EDDIE Villanueva and local officials in three provinces in the Visayas added their voices yesterday to the growing opposition to the Small Town Lottery, which the government has been promoting to take the place of the outlawed numbers game "jueteng."

Villanueva, who also heads the Bangon Pilipinas Renewal Movement, said STL would have the same ill-effects as jueteng and the Arroyo administration was baring its inability to stop illegal gambling by promoting the slightly modified lottery.

"This move ... reveals the weakness of political will to put an end to gambling operations in this country," Villanueva said in a statement.

The religious leader, an outspoken critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo who lost to her in the 2004 presidential elections, said the "rudiments and operators" of STL would only replace those of jueteng.

Villanueva said it was "disturbing to think that the Arroyo administration is leading our people towards a nation of amoral citizens who are unable to distinguish between right and wrong, between good and evil."

Opposition to the STL was also voiced by officials in Negros Oriental, Bohol and Cebu.

Rodolfo Gonzales, executive vice president of the Negros Oriental chapter of the League of Municipalities in the Philippines, said in Dumaguete City yesterday that both the league and Gov. George Arnaiz were against STL.

"We (town mayors) will not endorse the small town lottery," said Gonzales, mayor of Valencia. "The better thing to do is ... to strengthen the moral fiber of society." *Jerome Aning; Jhunnex Napallacan, Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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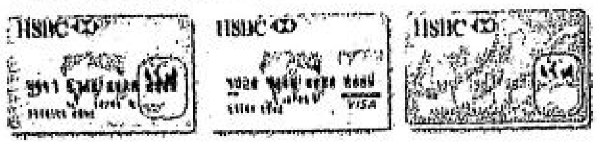

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A DISTINGUISHED GROUP of special friends of Father Al leads in the ribbon cutting for the museum named after him. From left, Alex Prieto, Fr. Joseph Kim, Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura, Bishop Jose Luis Tagle, Sr. Maria Cho, DSWD Secretary Esperanza Cabral, Joseph Vita, architect Cordell Guanco who donated his services for free, Celia Queiroz and Jose Queiroz. RYAN LIM

A CELEBRATION of the life filled with sacrifices of Catholic missionary Msgr. Aloysius Phillip Schwartz is now enshrined in the 15-hectare Girlstown complex in Silang, Cavite, adjacent to Boystown managed by the Sisters of Mary, which Fr. Al also founded. The structure is a product of love by the alumni of Fr. Al's Girlstown and Boystown in Asia and Latin America.

Museum is living tribute to man truly for others

From page A1

Also present were INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and her husband Alex Prieto, as well as Solicitor General Eduardo Antonio Nachura and Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral.

"Coming here is a journey of sorts for me," said Nachura, who used to be Father Al's lawyer. "I am here to visit the chapel where Father Al said his prayers."

The museum is located in the 15-hectare property of the Girlstown complex in Barangay Viga in Silang, adjacent to the 9-hectare Boystown complex at Barangay Adlas.

Also inaugurated was the replica of the spring of the Virgin of the Poor in Banneux, Belgium.

Beatification

Sister Tess, caretaker of the museum, said the idea of building the structure was raised a few years ago—at the beginning of efforts to push for the beatification of Father Al—but concrete plans were implemented only last year.

"This is really a product of the people's love for him," she said.

Sister Tess said it was the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin who had encouraged the Sisters of Mary to start the movement for beatification.

Father Al and Cardinal Sin became close after the former received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding in 1983. It was then, Sister Tess said, that Father Al's affection for Filipino Catholics began to grow.

Sister Michaela Kim, superior general of the Sisters of Mary, wrote a letter to all the schools and institutions founded by Father Al in Asia and Latin America, informing them of the drive to build a museum and retreat house in his honor.

In a message read during the inauguration Mass by Sister Elena Belarmino, provincial supervisor of the Sisters of Mary, Sister Michaela spoke of the astounding support and encouraging reactions from alumni and former workers of their institutions.

"At that time, we did not know yet the total cost. But to our surprise, the sisters and the brothers responded very positively," she said.

News of the plan soon reached the over 36,000 alumni of Boystown and Girlstown in the Philippines and thousands more in other countries.

"Like ants, they worked together in one direction—to build a remembrance of Father Al," Sister Michaela said.

Raising funds

Suggestions were raised on how to gather the needed funds for the retreat house and the one-room museum.

Students of Father Al's charity schools in Cavite and Cebu used what they had learned in vocational training to contribute to the cause.

Some worked on different projects and products, which they sold in trade exhibits; others organized cultural presentations. All the proceeds went to the project.

VIRGIN OF THE POOR: A replica of the statue in Banneux, Belgium, is blessed during the inauguration of Fr. Al's Museum and Retreat House to signify Fr. Al's commitment to the poorest of the poor. RYAN LIM

In Korea, Boystown residents set up sidewalk stalls and sold bread and other goodies they themselves had baked, Sister Michaela said.

"In Latin America, during the children's vacation, some worked in coffee farms and did odd jobs to earn some amount and donated all their earnings to this cause," she said.

Father Al's relatives and friends in the United States did their share.

Sister Tess and her colleagues met regularly with groups of alumni based in the country. "Everybody was excited to contribute," she said.

Architect Cordell Guanco offered his services for free and supervised the construction up to the finishing touches.

The distance did not deter others from pitching in.

Mariano, for example, volunteered to do the building's interior design. He regularly e-mailed his designs to the team in charge of the construction.

Memorabilia

At present, over a hundred personal belongings of Father Al are showcased in the museum.

The collection ranges from family pictures, stuff from his childhood in Washington D.C., his passports, and souvenirs and recollections of his trips to Belgium and Korea.

Also included are the cassocks he wore as a missionary priest in Korea and the Philippines, his bed, the wheelchair that he used to travel in even when he was ailing, and even the plastic straws for drinking when he was in sickbay.

But the guests' attention was particularly drawn to a miniature version of the house in Busan, South Korea, where Father Al lived for three years and which he called "my poorhouse."

It was made from old, discarded plywood. The only furniture inside consisted of a bed and a wooden chair.

In the Busan house, Father Al once said, he found the inner peace that further strengthened his resolve to work with the poorest of the poor.

It was during his stay in the shanty that he wrote two books about his mission.

Miracle

Dolores Schwartz Vita, Father Al's younger sister, said their family was extremely happy and excited about the inauguration of the museum and retreat house.

Dolores, who flew in with her sister Rose, said the building was a living testimony to their brother's good deeds and sacrifices to uplift the lot of the poor.

"[The construction of this building] was a miracle in itself… This was made possible because of the hard work of children. They were the ones who raised the money. That's what gave [this building] a more special significance. It's their way of saying thank you for what our brother did," Dolores told the INQUIRER.

"We all feel blessed and humbled by what [Father Al] has done. He has been a challenge and an inspiration for all of us," she said

Rose said it was their mother Cedelia who greatly influenced Father Al's decision to become a priest.

"Even at an early age, Father Al knew that all he wanted was to be a priest and work with the poor…," she said.

Rose said even their community in Washington D.C. was proud and excited at the prospect that one of their own would be a saint someday.

Loving one another

But more than immortalizing Father Al and his life, Sister Michaela said they hoped the museum would serve a higher purpose—for people to learn to love one another and discover spiritual renewal.

"It is our hope that this place would be a source of grace, a place of prayer and spiritual renewal and commitment to live the teaching of [Father Al], which is also the teaching of our Lord Jesus—'Love one another as I have loved you,'" she said, adding:

"This is the greatest miracle that could happen, and truly it is happening—the visible love of each one, showing the spirit of Father Al is alive and will continue to live if we love one another."

For donations, contact Sister Tess at (046)414-2575 or (02)529-8321.

COA: Cebu NGO used Marcos money for fertilizer

From page A1

of Agriculture's (DA) controversial Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) program, an Audit Observation Memorandum prepared by the DA's supervising auditor Flerida Jimenez showed.

Overpriced by P20M

Two other NGOs—the National Organization for Agricultural Enhancement and Production (NOAEP) and the Philippine Social Development Foundation Inc. (PSDFI)—in Mindanao also used Marcos funds to buy fertilizer overpriced by a total of P20 million, the report, dated Feb. 23, alleged.

The COA report was submitted to the Senate and released on the weekend by Senate President Franklin Drilon's office.

Drilon said the report was part of the preliminary findings of the COA "special audit" on the use of recovered Marcos funds for the GMA hybrid rice program.

"The manner of awards made to NGOs for the purchase and delivery of fertilizers was inconsistent with (the Government Procurement Reform Act)," the report said. "Deficiencies/violations of rules and regulations were noted in the audit of disbursements made by NGOs."

Administration critics had claimed that the GMA program was used to help President Macapagal-Arroyo win the 2004 presidential election.

The COA report said that the DA regional field office in Central Visayas directly released P6 million in recovered Marcos funds to the Kasosyo Foundation, which had been linked to Cebu Rep. Antonio Yapha, for the purchase of fertilizer in the 2nd and 3rd districts of Cebu.

Overpriced by P5.497M

The foundation bought 4,000 bottles of fertilizer with the money and even supposedly conducted its own canvass, but the COA report showed that there was overpricing by P5.497 million.

The foundation claimed that each bottle of fertilizer cost P1,500 but a COA survey showed that the fertilizer was available for only P125.75 a bottle.

The COA canvass showed the total purchase price should have been only P503,000 and not P6 million, the report said.

"Disbursement of funds by Kasosyo Foundation for the purchase of fertilizers was supported by canvass documents but the reasonableness of price is doubtful as the specifications of the fertilizers in the canvass sheets were not indicated," the report said.

It added that the procurement of the fertilizer was "already done ahead of the signing of the memorandum of agreement (for the fund transfer)" with the DA regional field office.

Signing authority exceeded

The report also said that the disbursements covering the transfer of funds "exceeded the signing authority of the regional director and other signing officials," resulting in the "splitting of payments" that violated DA and COA rules.

It added that the supporting documents of the liquidation reports that Kasosyo submitted were also "not in accordance with the requirements" of COA.

In the case of NOAEP, the COA report found that the fertilizer it bought were overpriced by "900 percent" in Northern Mindanao.

The NGO bought 13,234 one-liter bottles of fertilizer worth P19.851 million in Regions 10 and 13 but a COA canvass showed there was an "excess cost" of P17.5659 million since the canvass price was only P2.285 million, the report said.

Financial capacity

It said NOAEP had a "doubtful financial capability and experience" since its "equity is far below the contract amount and its experience short of what is required as it was established two years before the contract expired."

The report also said that NOAEP's purchase of fertilizer in Northern Mindanao was also not in accordance with the Government Procurement Reform Act or RA 9184 since "there was no basis" for directly contracting the NGO to buy the fertilizer.

In the case of PSDFI, the COA report said it bought 3,750 bottles of fertilizer with an "excess cost" of P2,531,250. The NGO bought the fertilizer for a total of P3 million when the COA canvass showed that it should have cost only P468,750, it added.

The report recommended that GMA hybrid rice project implementors should "adhere strictly" to RA 9184 and COA rules in buying fertilizer.

Liquidation reports

"Limit the awards to NGO(s) on services only and refrain diligently (from procuring) fertilizers by direct contracting to (an) NGO without providing a built-in price mechanism. Adjust all deficiencies noted in audit," the report said.

"Require project implementers to complete data on distribution list for validation purposes. Likewise, RFUs should follow up on distribution of fertilizers with the beneficiaries and provide instructions for its use," it added.

The report said RFUs should "immediately submit" the liquidation report of the funds transferred to them.

"Since they were the one(s) who downloaded the amount to the LGUs/NGOs, they should take responsibility in requiring these LGUs/NGOs to submit (the) liquidation report of the transferred funds," it added.

Yapha: 'Conscience clear'

The NOAEP and the PSDFI could not be reached for comment on the COA report.

Yapha has previously denied involvement in any irregularities in connection with the funds.

Reacting to previous reports that his employees were involved in the project, Yapha said in February that his conscience was clear, and that there was no irregularity in the implementation of the project.

No rice farms

Yapha denied knowing why his employees were among Kasosyo's incorporators—as shown in Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) records—and why his office was registered as the foundation's address.

"I don't know anything about that. They decided [to form the foundation] on their own," Yapha said.

Asked why he received the money when there were no rice farms in his district, Yapha said the fertilizer was made available not just to rice farmers but also to those planting corn and other crops.

Corrections

IN THE MARCH 25 ISSUE, A front page story, "Three sets of brothers among 324 graduates" misstated the year Cadets First Class Romel Sotero and Michael Gotong were born. They were born in 1980—not 1982.

In the same story, the number of pairs of brothers who graduated from the PMA was mistakenly attributed to the book "Closer Than Brothers: Manhood at the Philippine Military Academy" by Alfred W. McCoy. The figure came from the "The Academy Scribe," a three-volume history of the PMA.

Also, the surnames of brothers Clifford Richard and William George Cordova, who graduated from the PMA in 1994, were omitted in the story.

* * *

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Citing wire report, Gonzalez says media need to be regulated

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ SAID yesterday an allegedly erroneous wire service report that he was considering dropping the charges against three of four American GIs accused of raping a Filipino woman was proof the media were abusive and irresponsible and should, therefore, be regulated.

Speaking on his regular program on dwIZ radio, Gonzalez said the Agence France-Presse report which the INQUIRER bannered on March 20 was one more reason to regulate the local press and international wire services.

"That is why I have been saying all the time that we have to control some aspects of media reporting... they always put a spin to their stories," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez was peeved that the report resulted in brickbats from the mother of the 22-year-old alleged rape victim. He has since clarified that he was not planning to drop charges against Marine Sgt. Chad Carpentier and Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis but was looking into the possibility of charging them with a lesser offense as accessories or accomplices instead of principals.

But he said Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith would remain as the principal accused in the case.

"That headline is not my fault. It was done without me knowing about it and without me saying those things. They should have checked the story with me before printing it," he said. The INQUIRER reported Gonzalez's clarification the following day.

"That is the trouble with media and, I'm sorry to say this, those things that come out of the media are things (government officials) do not actually say," he said.

Gonzalez then took one more potshot at the foreign press.

"They were responsible for the death of Princess Diana," he said. The former British princess died in a Paris car crash while reportedly being chased by "paparazzi."

Meanwhile, in Zamboanga City, the Subic rape complainant's mother called Gonzalez insensitive and said she was disheartened by the justice secretary's reaction to her criticism of his plan to downgrade the charges against some of the accused rapists.

"Is she aspiring to be a movie star?" Gonzalez had said after seeing the woman crying on television. "I'm never influenced by the emotional outburst of people who don't know the law."

"It is really disheartening," the woman said of Gonzalez's remarks. "He should reflect first before saying those words in public. He's no longer hurting me but other women as well."

Zamboanga City Vice Mayor Maria Isabel Climaco also criticized Gonzalez, saying his words and actions "show what kind of breeding he has." *With Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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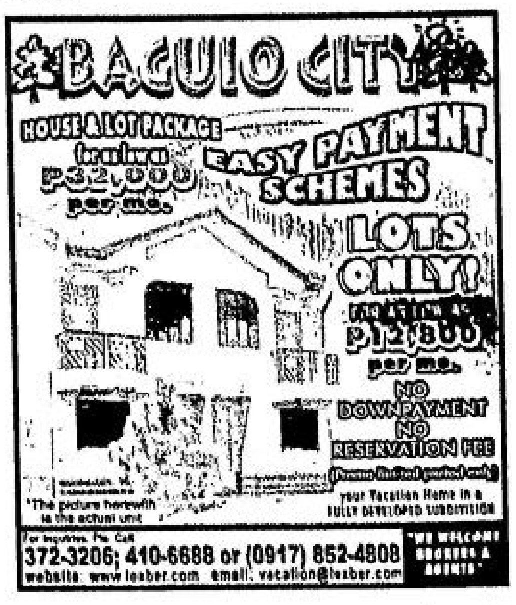
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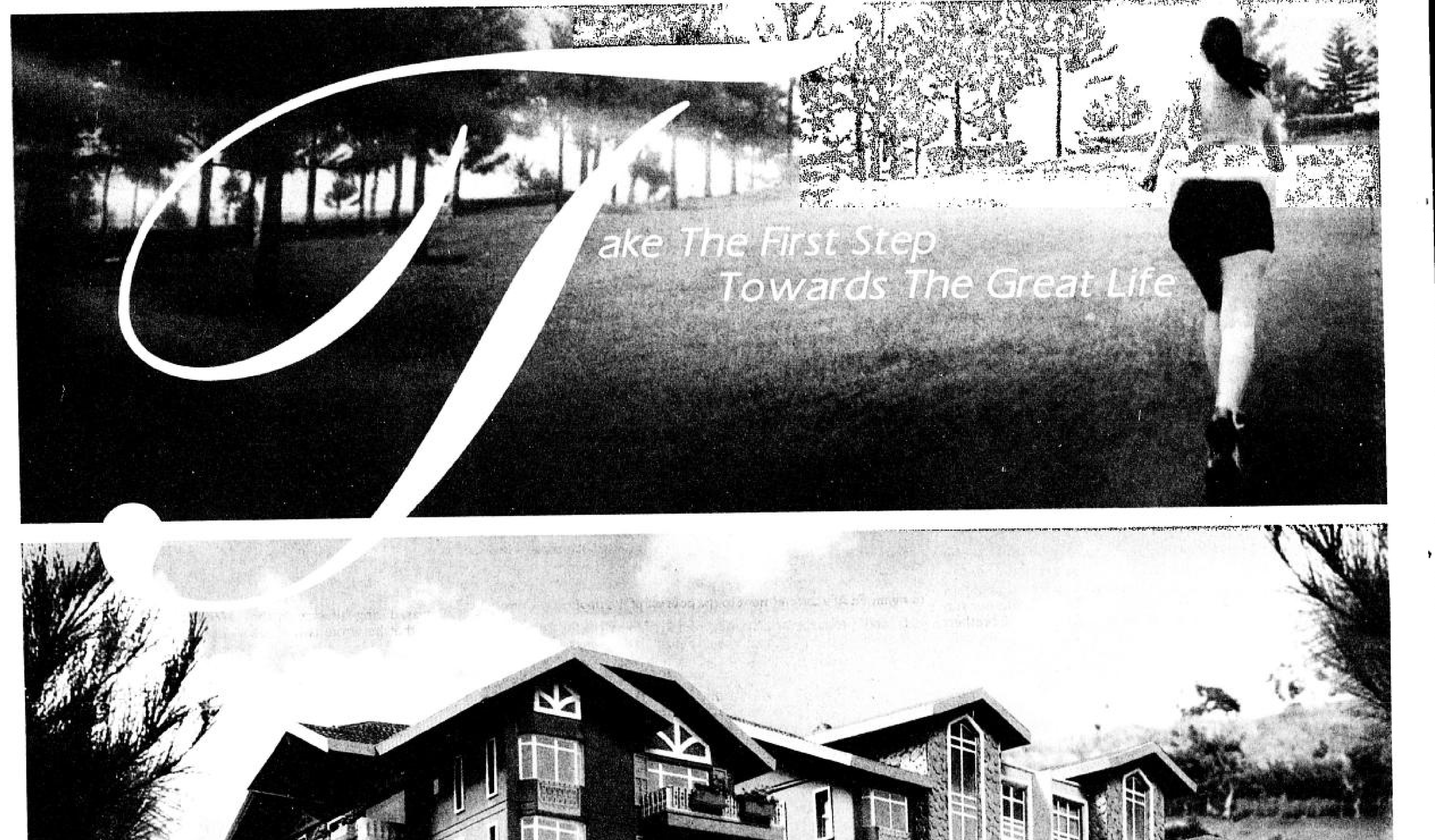

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AND THE 'LOUIE' GOES TO.....

Top PDI stories, photos cited

By Volt Contreras

A WEALTHY GENERAL who landed in jail. A young man who wowed the world on ice skates despite being afflicted with cerebral palsy. A sister remembered years after 9/11.

A typist with a big heart. A businesswoman who blew the whistle on a banking giant. A road built by rural folk who had grown tired of politicians. An award-winning, eco-friendly power plant for the Ifugao rice terraces.

These were the diverse characters and images depicted in the INQUIRER stories that won the 2005 LRP Awards, yearly honors given for the paper's most outstanding reports and photos.

Created in memory of the late INQUIRER Executive Vice President Louie Rufino Prieto, trophies and cash awards were handed out Friday night to the winners in five story and three photojournalism categories.

Chosen pieces

They were chosen from among pieces published between June 2004 and June 2005.

The "Louie" for Best Scoop went to veteran defense reporter Fe Zamora for her series on the allegedly illegally acquired wealth of former Armed Forces of the Philippines comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and former budget division chief then Lt. Col. George Rabusa.

Best Special Report went to "Tales of the Citi" by the business section's Doris Dumlao. The series recounted businesswoman Concepcion Poblador's fight against the world's largest banking group when she asked US and Philippine banking regulators to investigate the local Citibank unit for allegedly fraudulent business practices.

Two stories tied for the Best Feature Award: "Something terrible happened here" by INQUIRER deskperson Cookie Micaller and "Mangyan crosses rivers, climbs mountains to learn typing" by Southern Luzon correspondent Madonna Virola.

Personal account

Micaller wrote a personal account of losing a sister on Sept. 11, 2001, when the World Trade Center in New York City was attacked by terrorists. Virola discovered Rodrigo "Digoy" Ungkay, a Hanunuo-Mangyan who, after learning how to type, went on to teach his fellow tribesmen.

There was also a tie in the Best Positive Story – Human Interest category shared by "RP's only world class special ice skater" by reporter Blanche Rivera and "Poor Samareños build road, no thanks to government" by Visayas correspondent Joey Gabieta. This award also extended to the deskpersons who edited the stories, Emmie Velarde and Leti Boniol, respectively.

Rivera told the inspiring tale of Jonnel Enorme who won 90 gold medals in the World Recreational Ice Skating Championship, and proved that his cerebral palsy and visual and hearing impairment were no obstacle. Gabieta recalled how residents of Villareal, Samar, had initiated the construction of an 8-km concrete road in the volunteer spirit of *bayanihan*.

Best Positive Story – Hard News went to "Ifugao micro-hydro plant finalist in Global Environment Awards" by Northern Luzon correspondent Gobleth Moulic which chronicled how the 3-kilowatt facility electrified green advocates in London.

The award for Best Human Interest Photo was won by Erik Arazas for "D' Bodies in Manila." He snapped how a policeman stoically tried to stop sexy stars known as "D Bodies" from posing for media and passersby in Malate, Manila.

Best News Photo

Rem Zamora won Best News Photo for his "Repador Survivors" depicting the army's rescue of 3-year-old Ella Mae Sor who had been trapped for 11 days in a collapsed building in Real, Quezon at the height of Typhoon Yoyong.

Edwin Bacasmas won Best Positive Photo for "Shadowplay" which showed a little girl waving the red, white and blue during the Philippines' 106th Independence Day anniversary – a joyful reminder to love our country.

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Parity with men still long way off for RP women, UN index shows

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

DESPITE HAVING ELECTED TWO WOMEN Presidents, the Philippines rated rather poorly in a United Nations index charting various countries' achievements in giving women equality and parity with men, scoring six out of a possible 10.

Among the discriminatory practices and societal conditions that worked against Filipino women cited were the absence of a divorce law, poverty, inadequate laws to protect women, media bias, workplace conditions, inadequate health care and the influence of a conservative Catholic Church.

These were the findings of panelists at a forum on Friday by the United Nations Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as part of the Women's Month celebration.

Ratified by 181 countries, including the Philippines, the 25-year-old convention grants women parity with men when it comes to economic, civil, political, social, cultural and family rights.

The UN-CEDAW committee monitors the compliance of signatory countries to the international agreement through reports submitted every four years.

Church blamed

Ambassador Rosario Manalo, who chairs the committee, blamed institutions like the Catholic Church for pulling down the country's record on CEDAW. She cited in particular the Church's role in blocking the passage of a divorce law.

"Instead of making divorce a choice among those who'd like to avail themselves of remedies to their shattered marriages, the Church has foisted its position on the entire population," Manalo said.

"The Church's official position is annulment which says, in effect, that there was no marriage in the first place. But in divorce, there is no hypocrisy. It says there was a marriage, but that it did not work and therefore, remedies should be provided," she said.

According to Manalo, in a divorce settlement, the guilty party, usually the men, are made responsible for their behavior.

"The court provides safeguards to the disadvantaged spouse, usually the women. They are given redress for their sufferings," she said.

Manalo said that as a signatory to CEDAW, the Philippines must "repeal all discriminatory laws and practices, enact antidiscriminatory policies and remedies, and provide enabling conditions, including affirmative action," Manalo said.

'Substantive equality'

The country has at best a mixed record when it comes to treating women right, said Emmeline Versoza, executive director of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW).

Versoza blamed poverty for preventing women from enjoying "substantive equality."

She said economics was forcing Filipino women to seek better job opportunities abroad that exposed them to "the dangers of trafficking, prostitution, sexual abuse, cultural dislocation, social isolation and family disintegration."

Lawyer Carol Ruiz-Austria cited several landmark Philippine laws for women, including the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995, amendments to the rape law in 1997, the Anti-Trafficking Law in 2003, and the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Law in 2004.

But they have yet to be tested in the implementation, Austria said.

Other panelists noted that the media, through the use of sex stereotypes in advertising, telenovelas, entertainment programs and news reports, have played a part in curtailing the rights of women by putting them "in a box."

The private sector can also do a lot to make the workplace more "women-friendly," said panelist Evelyn Singson, president of the Management Association of the Philippines.

She cited the need for flexi-time "to accommodate the multitasking roles of women both in the home and in the workplace," as well as alternative working arrangements such as working from home, job-sharing and on-site daycare centers.

Versoza noted that Filipino women have made some headway, citing "increasing economic opportunities through microfinance programs and the opening of more fields that used to be exclusively the domain of men, such as the military and technical fields like welding, automotive and electronics."

Since the adoption of the Police Reform and Reorganization Act, "the annual recruitment for police officers have exceeded the prescribed 10-percent quota" for women recruits, she said.

Other gains

The NCRFW also cited other gains in recent years, such as the female literacy rate of 86.3 percent against the male literacy rate of 81.9 percent; female enrollees for school year 2003-2004 outnumbering the men at 55 percent and women accounting for 65 percent of the total number of those who passed government-sanctioned professional examinations from 2000 to 2003.

Against this, Manalo listed some of the areas where discrimination still exists:

- Although there are more women voters, the proportion of women in key elected positions is no more than 17 percent.
- From 1995 to 2004, the female labor force participation rate was only 50 percent, against 80 percent for males. Most female jobs are low-paying and many women workers are unpaid family members.
- Women comprise 57.6 percent of the state bureaucracy, but are mainly in the rank and file.
- Gender-tracking in employment can be traced to education. Women are more likely to take courses in home economics, services, teaching, mass communications and allied courses, while the men are concentrated in engineering and technology, architecture, town planning, law and jurisprudence.
- While women account for 51 percent of overseas Filipino workers, their remittances comprise only 57 percent that of the men, possibly because most women OFWs are in unskilled, low-paid and unprotected jobs.
- There is no national policy on reproductive health and no provisions for prenatal care for women, with maternal deaths increasing every year. Women have no formal protection against HIV-AIDS.
- Violence against women increased from 1,100 cases in 1996 to 7,383 in 2004, with battering and rape as the most common types.

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VICE PRESIDENT'S SABER

Vice President Noli de Castro presents the Vice Presidential Saber to Cadet First Class Francis de Guzman Rosales from Benguet, who graduated magna cum laude and second in this year's Philippine Military Academy Mandala Class during graduation rites held yesterday in Baguio City. Looking on is President Macapagal-Arroyo.

EGAY MONTAÑA/CONTRIBUTOR

MILF bats for indigenous folk

By Nash B. Maulana
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY – THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said yesterday Mindanao's other indigenous people should be brought into the peace process to ensure that any final peace agreement between the government and Moro rebels would be acceptable to everyone.

'Its venom'

Jun Mantawil, head of the MILF's peace secretariat, said one such group that should be brought into the process to neutralize what he described as "its venom" was the Mindanao Christian and Highlanders Alliance (MICHA).

The group has been critical of the peace talks, particularly on the question of ancestral domain.

Ferdinand Somejo, MICHA spokesperson, questioned the MILF's claim on ancestral domain in Mindanao in an eight-page position paper titled, "Position and Comments to the Consensus Points on Ancestral Domain Claims at the GRP-MILF Peace Talks."

Moros, not aborigines

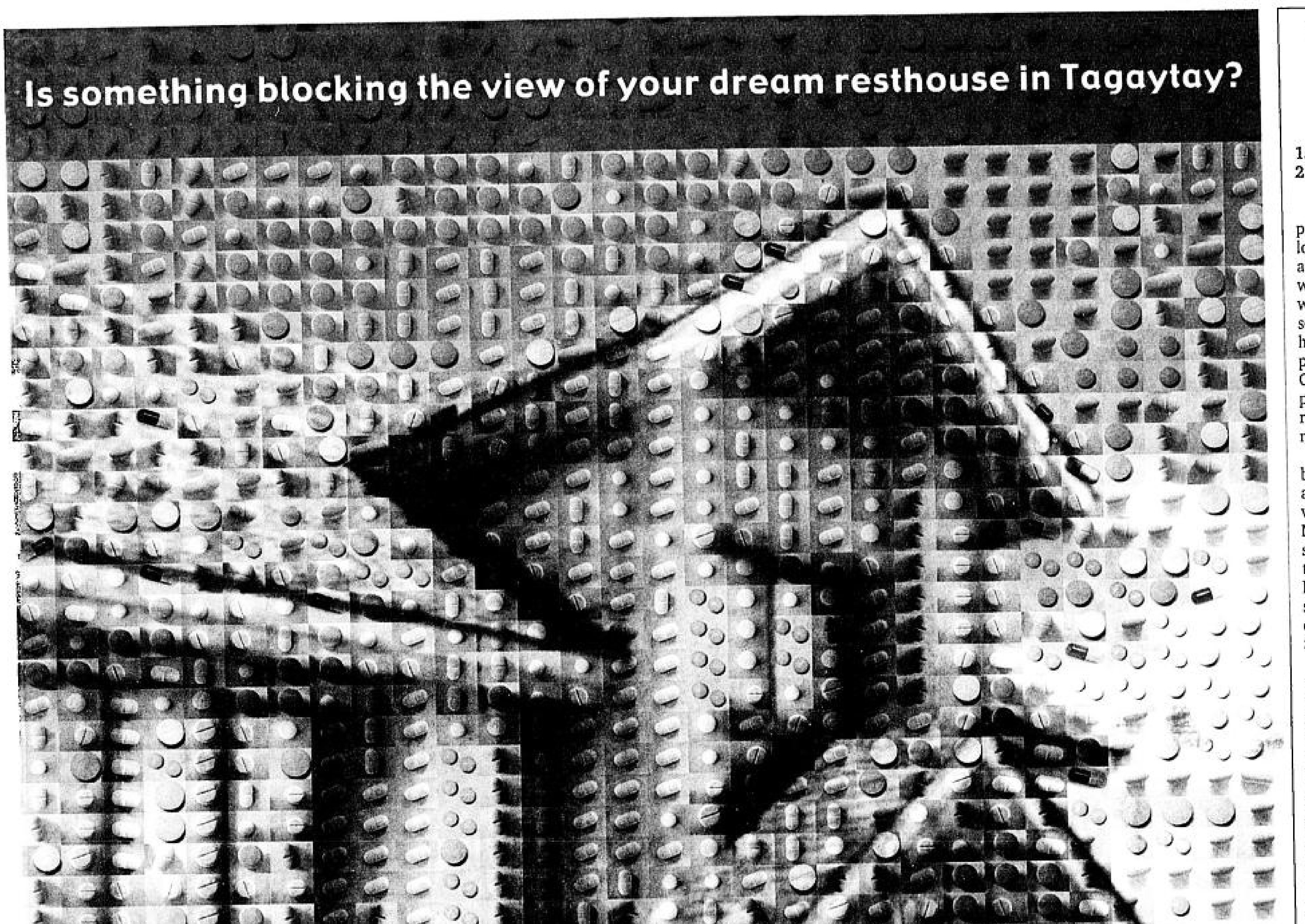
"The Moros are not aborigines to this region; only the highlanders can claim indigenous status. There is no comparison or likeness to that of cited claims of North American Indians, the aborigines of Canada, Australia and other indigenous people of other countries made as reference by the rebels to support ancestral domain claims," he said.

Mantawil said MICHA's concerns could be tackled under a joint-advocacy committee on ancestral domain, the creation of which is being proposed.

Politicians behind

Mantawil said some politicians were behind MICHA's opposition to efforts by peace negotiators in determining a Moro ancestral domain, the only remaining hindrance to the signing of a final peace agreement.

Mantawil said MILF negotiators would disclose the names of the politicians behind MICHA and would ask the government through its peace panel "to do something to stop this group from spreading its venom."



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 26, 2006
4th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Exile and return

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people, too, were exceedingly unfaithful, following the disgusting example of the nations around them, and so they defiled the house which Yahweh himself had made holy. Yahweh, the God of their ancestors, continued to send prophets to warn his people, since he had compassion on them and on his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, ignored his words, and laughed at his prophets, until at last the anger of Yahweh rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

They burned down the house of God, broke down the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his descendants as slaves until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the work of Yahweh was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, "The land will lie desolate for seventy years, to make up for its Sabbath rests that have not been observed."

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfill what he had said through the prophet Jeremiah, Yahweh stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue the following command and send it out in writing to be read aloud everywhere in his kingdom: "Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia: Yahweh, the God of heaven, who has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, has ordered me to build him a house in Jerusalem, in Judah. Now, all of you who belong to his people, go there and may Yahweh your God be with you."

2nd Reding: Ephesians 2:4-10

By grace you were saved

God, who is rich in mercy, revealed his immense love. As we were dead through our sins, he gave us life with Christ. By grace you have been saved! And he raised us to life with Christ, giving us a place with him in heaven.

In showing us such kindness in Christ Jesus, God willed to reveal and unfold in the coming ages the extraordinary riches of his grace. By the grace of God you have been saved through faith. This has not come from you: it is God's gift. This was not the result of your works, so you are not to feel proud. What we are is God's work. He has created us in Christ Jesus for the good works he has prepared that we should devote ourselves to them.

Gospel: John 3:14-21

God sent his son

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world; instead, through him the world is to be saved. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned. He who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the Name of the only Son of God.

"This is how the Judgment is made: Light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For whoever does wrong hates the light and doesn't come to the light for fear that his deeds will be shown as evil. But whoever lives according to the truth comes into the light so that it can be clearly seen that his works have been done in God."

Commentary

We hear the litany of infidelity, abomination of the nations, war, violence and pollution of the temple (worship in the midst of doing evil). And as they draw away from God, God tries with prophets, warnings, compassion, outsiders that attack them. But nothing brings them back, not even the destruction of the temple and of Jerusalem; captivity and exile. And redemption comes from an outsider—Cyrus, King of Persia—who helps them go home.

It is Jesus who helps us go home. It is not our doing, but the gift of God. We are told to look up at the Son of Man crucified and see our deliverance, and then to walk in the light and act in truth.

When will we learn as a people of God?

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$8.5B needed to revive mines in RP, says exec

CLARK FIELD – THE PHILIPPINES NEEDS $8.5 billion to push 23 priority mining projects and 37 exploration deals for the sector's revival after years of neglect, a top industry executive said.

The funding needs of the 23 priority projects the government has been pushing has been raised to $8 billion from an initial estimate of $6.5 billion, Benjamin Philip Romualdez, president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, told reporters at a forum on Friday.

Another $500 million is required to jump-start 37 mining exploration projects, he said. More than half of these projects have already forged partnerships while the rest are still settling legal and corporate problems.

"We are looking at close to $8.5 billion that are required to get these projects moving at either expansion, development, feasibility, confirmatory drilling, greenfield exploration," said Romualdez, who is also president of the country's oldest mining firm Benguet Corp.

The Philippines is dependent on foreign investors to tap at least $840 billion worth of in mineral reserves. It ranks in the world's top five for its deposits of copper, nickel and iron ore and is geographically closer to resource-hungry China than the region's other major mining center, Indonesia.

Of the 23 priority projects estimated to be worth a total of $90 billion, four were already in operation and two were expected to start production within two years, Romualdez said.

The rest were finalizing deals with joint venture partners or settling legal obstacles.

The country's mineral production last year was valued at only $1.02 billion when its annual potential output could be at least $5 billion if the sector was fully developed, Romualdez said. *Reuters*

Firm questions US jurisdiction over mining case

BOAC, MARINDUQUE – PLACER DOME INC. has filed a motion to dismiss the suit for environmental remediation and natural resource damage filed against it in US Federal Court in Nevada on the basis of jurisdiction, the American lawyer representing the province of Marinduque said here Friday.

In a press conference, lawyer Walter J. Scott said Placer Dome had claimed the US court lacked general jurisdiction over it, and that the province – and every other plaintiff – was not allowed to sue Placer Dome in Nevada because it supposedly did not conduct any business there.

Scott, however, said the facts clearly showed that Placer Dome operated in Nevada and had been reaping enormous profits there.

The people of Marinduque, through the provincial government, filed suit against Placer Dome Inc. in Nevada, USA, on Oct. 4, 2005, to obtain just compensation for the damage wrought by the allegedly irresponsible mining practices of Marcopper Mining Corp.

Placer Dome is the giant Canadian mining company that controlled and managed Marcopper. It operated the mine until 1997 when it divested its shares in Marcopper. *Gerald Gene R. Querubin, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS)—Termination of employment—One of the just causes for terminating an employment under Article 282 of the Labor Code is gross and habitual neglect by the employee of her duties. This cause includes gross inefficiency, negligence and carelessness. Such just cause is derived from the right of the employer to select and engage his employees. Habitual neglect implies repeated failure to perform one's duties for a period of time. The employee's repeated acts of absences without leave and her frequent tardiness reflect her indifferent attitude to and lack of motivation in her work. Her repeated and habitual infractions, committed despite several warnings, constitute gross misconduct. Habitual absenteeism without leave constitute gross negligence and is sufficient to justify termination of an employee. The Court finds the penalty of dismissal from the service reasonable and appropriate to employee's infraction. The employee committed several infractions in the past and despite the warnings and suspension, she continued to display a neglectful attitude towards her work. An employee's past misconduct and present behavior must be taken together in determining the proper imposable penalty. The totality of infractions or the number of violations committed during the period of employment shall be considered in determining the penalty to be imposed upon an erring employee. In the instant case, there is no doubt that the employee was habitually absent, tardy and neglectful of her duties. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Challenge Socks Corporation v. Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 165268, November 8, 2005) *By R.B. Vera*

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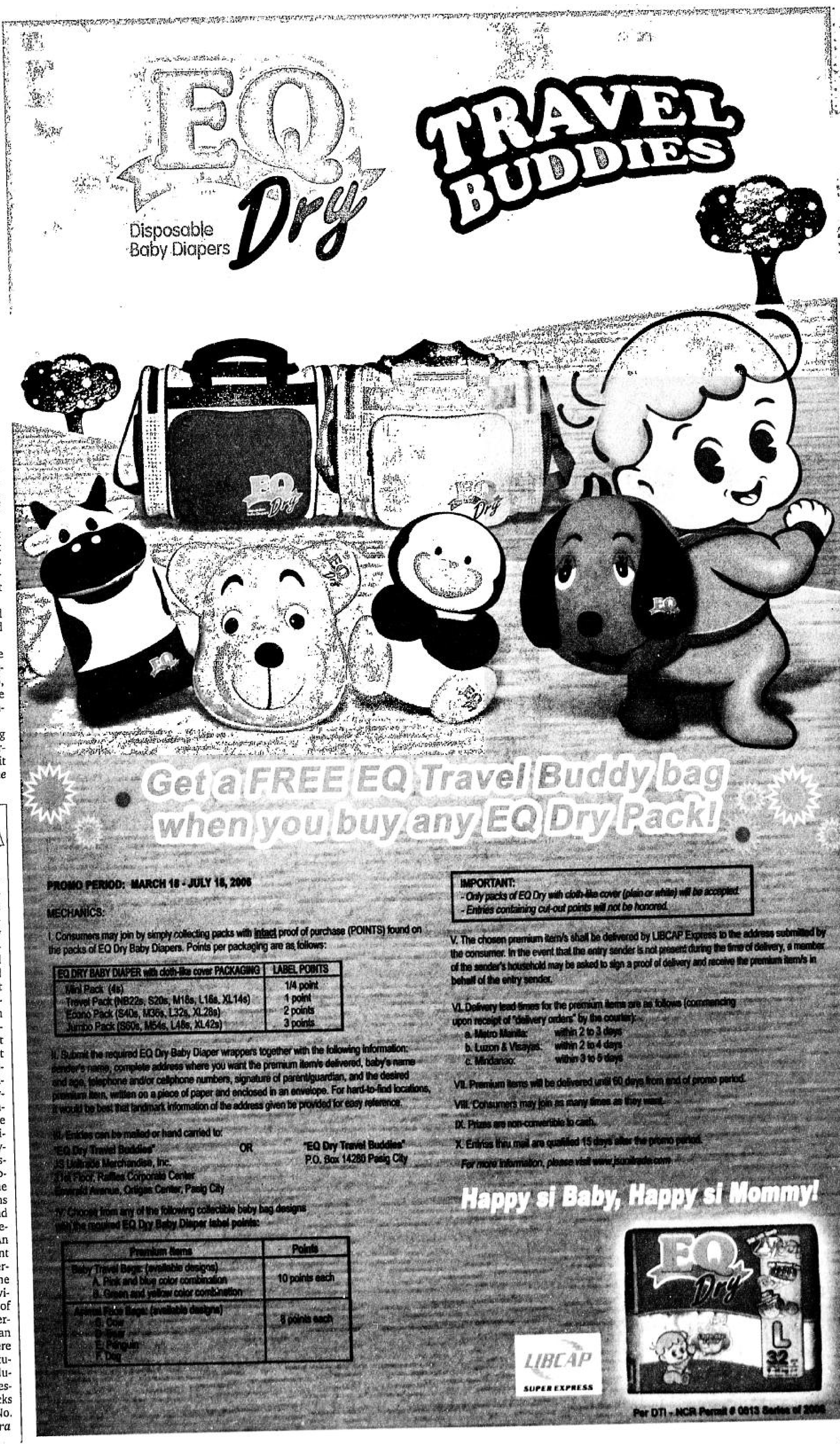

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EQ DRY BABY DIAPER with cloth-like cover PACKAGING	LABEL POINTS
Mini Pack (4s)	1/4 point
Travel Pack (NB22s, S20s, M18s, L16s, XL14s)	1 point
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Jumbo Pack (S60s, M54s, L48s, XL42s)	3 points

II. Submit the required EQ Dry Baby Diaper wrappers together with the following information: sender's name, complete address where you want the premium item/s delivered, baby's name and age, telephone and/or cellphone numbers, signature of parent/guardian, and the desired premium item, written on a piece of paper and enclosed in an envelope. For hard-to-find locations, it would be best that landmark information of the address given be provided for easy reference.

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P.O. Box 14280 Pasig City

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OPINION

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Faking it

EDITORIAL

THE FINDINGS OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL'S EXAMINATION of Virgilio Garcillano's current passport cannot but lead to one conclusion: It's fake. The main question that needs to be answered is equally clear: Who faked it?

It is still within the realm of possibility that the controversial ex-election commissioner acted on his own to procure or produce a fake passport. It could have been, as Rep. Teodoro Locsin said the other day, "a solo flight." But it is also possible, as Rep. Gilbert Remulla has suggested, that considerable administration resources were used to provide the man at the center of the alleged election fraud in 2004 a clean travel document; the findings, he said, "strongly indicate a conspiracy to cover up" the alleged election cheating, the subject of the alleged wiretaps known familiarly as the "Hello, Garci" tapes.

We cannot expect the Arroyo administration to take the lead in tracing the forgery back to the forgers. But we certainly expect the House of Representatives, which received the fake passport in the course of an official inquiry, to rediscover its self-respect (its institutional dignity, as many legislators would prefer to phrase it) and get to the bottom of the passport fraud.

It can conduct another congressional investigation in aid of legislation, this time in pursuit of a specific legislative agenda: protecting the integrity of the country's passports. Such an investigation, to be completely successful, must determine how the faking of the key travel document was done, by whom, and for what purpose. The House can also file a case against Garcillano, for perjury and falsification of documents.

Of course, such a case has already been filed with the Quezon City prosecutor's office, but we regret to say we find the filing a rush to publicity, instead of a well-considered legal and political strategy. The charges were filed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who is not a party to the congressional inquiry where the fake passport was submitted (and, therefore, has no legal standing in the controversy), and three opposition representatives who were a party to the congressional inquiry.

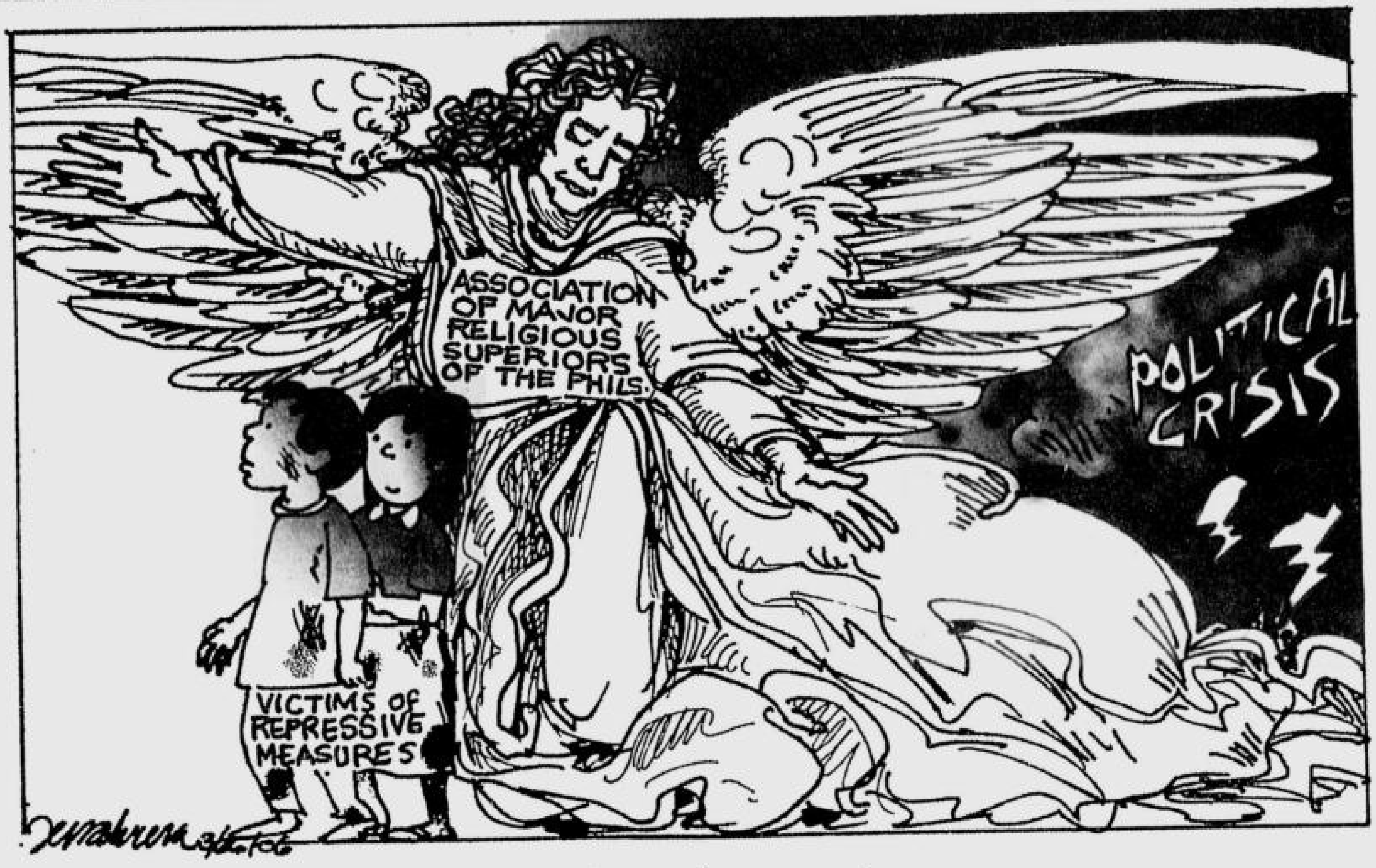
"This only shows that old habits die hard," said Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, who was the opposition's spokesperson during its ill-fated impeachment drive last year. "Anyone who's used to doctoring election returns and paraphernalia can also learn how to fake passports."

As sound bites go, this is juicy; it neatly connects the issue at hand—the forgery of Garcillano's passport—with the issue at large: alleged election fraud that benefited President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But what a wasted opportunity to join with administration lawmakers in common cause! Cayetano and his fellow juniors, Representatives Teofisto Guingona III and Joel Villanueva, must have their eye on the main prize: a successful impeachment of the President come July, to hold her accountable for the allegations. The brazenness of Garcillano's submitting a fake passport must have struck many congressmen, not just those in the opposition, as a slap in the face, a stain on their institutional honor. Surely a patient, methodical minority could have seized the chance to work with like-minded congressmen from across the aisle. Surely the fake passport was an insult to the entire House, and not just to the opposition.

As the Bangko Sentral examiners have concluded, Garcillano's current passport failed to conform to standards on six counts; perhaps, the most glaring failure is the document's size, which is millimeters smaller in both length and width. There must be many congressmen in the majority who would like to find out, even if only for their own consumption, how the fake passport came to be. This interest presents an opening for the politics of addition; too bad Cayetano et al. can't do the math.

The central question remains: Who faked it? It seems unlikely that Garcillano, who enjoyed the solicitous company of friends while in hiding, would have commissioned a fake passport without the help of other equally generous friends. Perhaps, some of those were, shall we say, friends in high places? The way for both Congress and the public to find out is to get to the bottom of the forgery.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Judicial independence

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

OF THE JUSTICES APPOINTED TO THE REorganized Supreme Court after Edsa I, I was the first to disagree with President Corazon Aquino when in Sarmiento v. Mison, 146 SCRA 549, she appointed a bureau director without the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments. Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez joined me in my dissent, but the rest of our colleagues voted for our common benefactor. Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, who was a consistent foe of the Marcos dictatorship, stressed on us the need to support the new government under the President who had appointed all of us.

(Incidentally, the only rebuke I got from Malacañang was the cancellation of my name from the list of her allies on the Court and the discontinuance of the ice cream cake sent to them on their birthdays. But, to be fair, I don't think she even knew of this penalty.)

In the subsequent case of Marcos v. Manglapus, 177 SCRA 668, the Supreme Court, this time under Chief Justice Marcelo B. Fernan, its members all still appointees of President Aquino, saved her by the skin of her teeth in a split decision. Eight of the justices sustained her refusal to allow Marcos and his family to return to the Philippines from their exile in Hawaii and said they were at that time a risk to the national security. Seven justices disagreed, arguing that as citizens of the Philippines, they had a right to come back to their country, regardless of their alleged crimes and notoriety. I said in my dissent that the right was available even to "tyrants and charlatans and scoundrels of every stripe."

In Brillantes v. Yorac, 192 SCRA 258, the petitioner challenged the designation of Commissioner Haydee Yorac of the Commission on Elections as its temporary chair following the resignation of Chairman Hilario G. Davide Jr. to head a fact-finding commission. It was argued that the designation made by President Aquino was invalid for interfering with the internal business of the constitutional body. Despite the popularity then of Aquino and Yorac, the Supreme Court unanimously held that the questioned act was unconstitutional, thereby reversing the President of the Philippines. All of the justices who had voted for the decision had been appointed by President Aquino.

In 1987, President Aquino authorized the sale of property belonging to the Philippine Republic in Roppongi, Japan. Vice President Salvador H. Laurel opposed the plan, arguing that the property was public in nature and so beyond the commerce of man. The Supreme Court, by a 9-6 vote in Laurel v. Garcia, 187 SCRA 797, agreed with him and so disauthorized the President who had appointed all the incumbent justices then. She was also at that time already at loggerheads with Laurel and so suffered additional embarrassment over her defeat. In my concurrence to the majority *ponencia*, I said: "I am happy to note that in the several cases where this Court has ruled against her, the President has submitted to this principle (of the rule of law) with becoming grace."

Even during the time of President Fidel V. Ramos, his appointees to the Court did not always support him in its decisions affecting his official acts. To take but one example, there is the leading case of Ople v. Torres, 293 SCRA 141, where he had established by mere administrative order a National Computerized Identification Reference System that the Court invalidated not only for its provenance but also for violating the right to privacy. The decision was supported by eight justices, including Justice Reynato S. Puno, the *ponente*, and three others who had also all been appointed by Ramos.

I mention these cases, among several others where the rulings of the Supreme Court have not entirely pleased the President of the Philippines. These are manifestations of the independence expected and often exhibited by the Supreme Court as the foremost and final arbiter of justice in this country. It is this same virtue that is expected now by the people in the decision of the two cases involving the constitutionality of the measures promulgated by President Macapagal-Arroyo, *viz.*, Executive Order No. 464 and Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which remain unresolved to date.

There is some apprehension on the part of many people that the decisions in these cases will favor President Arroyo, who appointed 12 of the 14 justices now sitting on the Court. The *utang na loob*, or debt of gratitude, is a long-honored tradition in this country, not to mention the practical advantage of siding with those in power, especially the President herself. I hope, though, that they are just being paranoid and that the judgment of the highest court in the land will disregard these irrelevant considerations and reflect instead the integrity and supremacy of the rule of law.

Spread light, not lies

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT AN ATHEIST couple who had a son. Both parents never told their child anything about God or about Jesus. One night, the couple had a fight where the father shot the mother and then shot himself. It all happened in front of the child. The child was sent to a foster home. One day, in a Sunday School, the teacher held up a picture of Jesus and asked if anyone knew who it was. The child in our story raised his hands and said: "That's the man who was holding me the night my parents died."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 3, 14-21), we read the most important and the most beautiful line in the Bible: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." This message about a God who loves is the light that brightens up and gives hope to a world so full of evil, darkness and lies. That somebody loves you and me is the greatest story ever told.

* * *

As you believe, so you live. People who have God in their lives live differently from those who do not. If there is no God, and if there is no eternal life, then "eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow you die." Period. But if you believe in God and in eternal life, then live in the light and live a life of love, and look forward to eternal life.

* * *

Someone once said that if you risk your money on dice, people call you a gambler. If you risk your money in the stock market, they call you an investor. But if you risk your future in God, they call you a fool. Come to think of it, God must be the ultimate fool in the eyes of the world because He risked in us, unworthy creatures, because of love. And so it is that we, too, share God's "foolishness" whenever we love.

* * *

"For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed." Attention all you liars, thieves and cheats, as well as all those who help perpetuate them, particularly those in government and those involved in "cover-ment." The truth will always come out in the end. Inviting you to come out of the darkness and join the side of the truth and the light.

* * *

The evil one is the master of all lies not because of outright falsehoods, but because he specializes in deceit, half-truths, technicalities, concealment and rationalizations. It looks like he has a lot of recruits in our midst, on a national scale.

* * *

An example of foolishness in lying: Why is it that the pig, no matter how fat it is, does not have high blood pressure? Because it does not eat pork!

* * *

An example of the fears of a liar: A snake, upon learning that it has deadly venom, began to panic. Why? Because, it recently bit its tongue!

* * *

An example of the absurdities of a liar: It's Ash Wednesday. A Catholic dines at a restaurant and orders shark, dolphin and whale meat. Told that there was none, he right away orders roast beef, lechon and steak thinking that, at least, he tried to order fish.

* * *

On March 31, Friday, a cousin Msgr. Mario Peralta, will be ordained bishop of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan. Praise God for this gift not only for the family, but also for the Church, particularly to the Diocese of Alaminos where he will be installed as co-adjutor on April 28. Goodness pays. Hard work is rewarded. Dedication is crowned with God's grace and blessings.

* * *

I was in Tuguegarao recently to give a Lenten retreat at the St. Louis University and at the Monastery of St. Claire upon the invitation of Dr. Blandina Guzman. I met Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan and among the things that impressed me was that the whole household, including the guard and the drivers joined the Archbishop in praying the rosary every night after supper. Let us not belittle the value of prayer. Do you pray as a family? Do you invite your household helpers to join you in your prayer?

* * *

Inviting you for a workshop on Alzheimer's disease on April 1, 2006 at the Janssen Hall from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. For those who care for people with such a disease, it is especially helpful to know what steps to take at the onset of the disease and how to minister to such people. For particulars, please call 373-2262 or 0917-4167849.

* * *

As part of spreading the light, we are now on TFC (The Filipino Channel) with our one minute spots on values and simple life reminders, entitled "Moments." Yes, we all must continue to bear and spread God's love, to the whole world for whom He gave His only Son

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to spread the light and turn my back on all lies. Amen.

‘First they came for the communists’

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

DURING WORLD WAR I, A YOUNG GERMAN navy officer, Martin Niemoller, became one of his country's most successful submarine captains. He was awarded the Iron Cross (First Class) in recognition of his accomplishments during the conflict. After the establishment of the Weimar Republic, he studied theology and became a pastor of the Church of Jesus Christ. From being a military officer, he became an advocate of peace and an active member of the World Peace Committee. For seven years, he was president of the World Council of Churches.

Niemoller achieved much fame for a poem "First they came for the Communists." There are some questions as to who actually wrote the poem or whether it has been altered by others over the years.

"First they came for the communists and I did not speak out
—because I was not a communist;
Then they came for the socialists and I did not speak out
—because I was not a socialist;
Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out
—because I was not a trade unionist;
Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out
—because I was not a Jew;
Then they came for me
—and there was no one left to speak out for me."

* * *

I must raise my humble voice in protest against all kinds of unjust arrests—with or without warrants; against all so-called "invitations" for questioning; and against all other forms of detention made under dubious general orders.

When former Secretary Dinky Soliman and her friends were hauled to a police station for congregating along Roxas Boulevard; when Prof. Randy David and others were arrested and detained during a rally on Edsa; and when my *tocayo*, Gen. Ramon Montaño, was "invited" for questioning by police agents at a golf course, from where he was brought to Camp Crame—the authorities sent out the message that all forms of dissent and opposition would not be tolerated. The authorities chose high-profile personalities to highlight their determination to coerce all dissenters and perceived enemies of the government into silence and submission. And if we do not speak out now, they may think that they have succeeded in their objective.

Soliman, David and Montaño can take care of themselves. In fact, there are probably quite a number of lawyers who would be willing to defend them, pro bono, because they are high-profile individuals. They do not need us to speak on their behalf. It is for those nameless individuals whom we see on TV being beaten up by the police—even as they are already on the ground— that we raise our voice in protest. It is for those nameless individuals hauled off to police stations and held for days because they have no lawyer to represent them or to protect their rights, that we raise our voice in protest. I am no bleeding-heart liberal—I just don't like the sight of people being treated like animals.

Why is it that the authorities are so quick to pounce on people like Soliman, David and Montaño, and yet we don't see any such resolute action being taken on characters like Virgilio Garcillano, Joc-Joc Bolante or Benjamin Abalos? If it was true that Garcillano was in the country all the time, why could not our police authorities track him down for so long? It was as though some people wanted some time for sentiments to cool down before presenting him. Has the government exhausted all means to get Bolante back so he could testify on the P728-million fertilizer scandal? Has his passport been cancelled, and have we asked for assistance in bringing him back to the country? Has anyone in Congress filed impeachment proceedings against Abalos and company for the P1.2-billion Comelec scandal which the Supreme Court has characterized as "illegal, imprudent and hasty, desecrating legal and jurisprudential norms"?

Abalos and company spent P849 million of taxpayers' money on machines and defective software for the 2004 elections; they were never used. And so we had to resort to manual counting. Bolante allegedly malversed DA (Department of Agriculture) funds meant for farmers, for use in the election campaign. And Garcillano allegedly came through with his "*dagdag-bawas*" expertise.

In the first place, why do you think Garcillano was named to the Commission on Elections in spite of his dubious reputation? From among more than a hundred other qualified individuals to choose from, he was the one President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed to the Comelec. The Southern Tagalog region was his assigned area of responsibility. Yet, he was roaming around Mindanao during the critical period of the election.

My friends—well, some of my friends—tell me that the Philippine peso has become significantly stronger. Actually, exporters are a bit concerned about the strengthening of the peso. My friends also point to improvements in the economy and the favorable investment climate in the country.

Well and good. But in addition to a stronger peso, I also want a government that is accountable for its actions; one that will deliver justice for all and not just for a few. As former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim put it, "The law applies to all, or none at all."

* * *

Golfing notes: Two Sundays ago, National Treasurer Omar Cruz, in the company of BSP Governor Amando Tetangco, Dan Villanueva and Tabs Katigbak, scored a hole-in-one at the 190-yard 7th hole of the Orchard Golf Club in Cavite. Using a Taylor-made 3-wood and a Titleist ball, the feat won for Cruz a roundtrip ticket to the United States courtesy of Aseana Airlines. It was his second hole-in-one in a short golfing career.

Scrat the Star

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"SCRAT," THE PREHISTORIC "SQUIRREL-RAT" who undergoes the most extreme physical trials in search of the precious and elusive acorn, is the real star of "Ice Age: The Meltdown," the sequel to the very popular CGI film "Ice Age."

At first conceived to provide comic relief to the story of a "family" of prehistoric beasts bent on delivering a lost baby to his human family, "Scrat" gets more screen time in the sequel, and more respect from the other characters.

The googly-eyed cartoon character, portrayed as eternally on the verge of desperation, is actually already familiar to local movie audiences. "Meltdown's" trailer, featuring "Scrat" on a nail-biting search for his precious acorn, has been showing for the past few months, and I swear, no matter how often I've seen the trailer, I still get a huge laugh out of it.

That comic sequence opens "Ice Age: The Meltdown," but if it's at all possible, even funnier pratfalls await the pitiful squirrel-rat. Viewers are cautioned to wait until the very end, as "Scrat's" search for the "golden acorn" undergoes a most abrupt and surprise conclusion.

Though they haven't been able to snatch the limelight from "Scrat," the other characters in the movie, including the new ones, do manage to keep our attention riveted on what is essentially the same ground—only this time, instead of a pride of ravenous saber-toothed tigers, the antagonists happen to be a pair of evil prehistoric crocodiles and a flood that threatens to wipe out all the creatures in the plain.

* * *

THE TRIO of Manny the wooly mammoth (voiced by Ray Romano), Sid the sloth (John Leguizamo) and Diego the reformed saber-toothed tiger (a far less sinister Denis Leary) embark on a new adventure: to lead the rest of the animals to the other side of the valley. A "boat" is supposed to be waiting there, to rescue them from the flood that is threatening to break apart the ice dam that's holding back the water from the melting polar ice caps.

On the way, the trio meet up with "Ellie" (voiced charmingly by Queen Latifah), a female wooly mammoth who believes she is actually a possum. Ellie has "baggage" in the slithery forms of her "brothers" Crash and Eddie, voiced with hilarious effect by Seann William Scott (Stifler in the "American Pie" movies) and Josh Peck.

Even if it has to cut from the animals' flight to salvation to Scrat's chase of the acorn, "Meltdown" still has time for a sub-plot involving Manny and Ellie. Thinking that he is the last of his species, Manny is understandably elated to discover a future mate in Ellie. But he must first convince her that she is not a possum and then that it would be worth her while to help propagate the mammoth species.

This is where the film starts to stray into "eeky" territory, and I was afraid the children among the audience during Friday's preview would start shrieking at the unexpected sex education course (though National Geographic provides any number of mating scenes). Fortunately, the creators pull back just in time, leaving the rest of the story, and the history of the extinct mammoths, to the imagination.

* * *

IN THE WINTER of 1887, when he began coughing and losing weight, Jose Rizal, suspecting that he had tuberculosis, is believed to have tried treating himself with arsenic, a powerful poison, writes historian Isagani Medina. But Rizal stopped this dangerous treatment after it made him "inconveniently thirsty" during that winter. Dr. Maximo Viola, a doctor-friend of Rizal's, later examined him and concluded that what he had wasn't TB but "weakness caused by an improper diet." Viola also sent a specimen of Rizal's sputum for microscopic inspection and his findings were confirmed.

It's understandable why Rizal would be so concerned about the possibility of having TB that he would resort to dangerous medication. After all, several friends in the Propaganda Movement succumbed to TB, including Marcelo H. del Pilar and Graciano Lopez Jaena, as well as Santiago Bonifacio, the father of Katipunan Supremo Andres Bonifacio.

Indeed, TB has always been with us, afflicting President—Manuel L. Quezon being the prime example—and pauper alike.

Despite its long history and the availability of tools, methods and medicine that can readily diagnose, treat and cure TB, the disease remains a serious public health problem. "There are 75 compelling reasons to celebrate (World TB Day)," Health Secretary Francisco Duque declared recently. "That's because 75 Filipinos die from TB a day."

* * *

DUQUE was speaking at the launching of the "Global Plan to Stop TB," a 10-year program that aims to save 14 million lives around the world through a combined program of developing new diagnostic tools, new drugs and shorter treatment, and a new vaccine against TB. If successful, the Global Plan should be able to eliminate TB by 2050.

Under the banner of the "Stop TB Partnership" and the Philippine Coalition against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT), the local component of the Global Plan draws the participation of at least 61 organizations and agencies from the government, private sector, academe, civil society and donor agencies.

"It is unacceptable that today TB continues to kill 75 Filipinos a day," lamented Dr. Thelma Tupasi, chair of the International Working Group on Drug-resistant TB and president of the Tropical Disease Foundation.

TB is a "man-made disease," Tupasi stressed, since there's no reason why anyone should die from TB given all the tools the world has on hand. What's needed is greater awareness of the need to go for early diagnosis and treatment, access to available and cheap anti-TB drugs, and full compliance with current treatment protocols.

Fighting a repressive and immoral regime

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

AS WE NOW HAVE SEEN, PROCLAMATION 1017 had two basic objectives: first, to create a climate of urgency to justify extreme police measures and, thus, a chilling effect on the public; and second, to test the public acceptability of the use of even more coercive measures in the future.

The Arroyo regime's readiness to use coercion against its critics should, however, not lull us into thinking that her other powers have completely run out. Ms Arroyo continues to enjoy residual support from the mass media, from the business community, and from religious leaders. She knows this support is dwindling and is becoming passive. That is why she is doing everything to preserve what is left of it by paying these key sectors well-publicized presidential visits or by inviting them to dinner in Malacañang. We have to tell these presidential props that they cannot play this game without being made accountable. If they wish to remain politically neutral, they must manifest their neutrality both with respect to Ms Arroyo and to those who oppose her.

In the coming days, Ms Arroyo may be relying even more on the remunerative powers of her office in order to survive the political crisis. We have already seen this in the generous dispensing of awards and promotions to the police and the military officials who have zealously carried out her orders. The latest beneficiary of this reward system is Gen. Jovito Palparan, a military man who has distinguished himself by the number of suspected subversives summarily executed wherever he is assigned. The police are no less attuned to this reward system. Every protest rally is welcomed by them as a chance to earn reward points for future promotions or to erase demerits incurred in the past.

The enormous remunerative powers of the Arroyo regime also explain the support she continues to get from local government officials who all must wait for Malacañang approval for the release of their pork barrel and internal revenue allotments. The resources that go into the feeding troughs of the patronage system are virtually unlimited. These are drawn from various public funds—the President's social fund, the President's intelligence fund, and many other off-budget items over which the President enjoys wide discretionary powers. We saw the maximum use of these powers during the impeachment proceedings last year. It is bound to be repeated this year.

There is no way we can fight the power of money except by holding the face of truth before it. And there is no way we can fight coercion except by acts of solidarity with its victims. We have to impress on the power-trippers who rule our country that not everyone is for sale, and that many are prepared to bear witness to the abuses of power.

We must bear in mind, however, that the regime is methodically drawing us into a brawl we can only lose. If we use violent means, Ms Arroyo and her minions will feel even more justified to deploy the coercive powers of the state against us. We have to protest and respond non-violently to the extent we can, using what is left of the avenues allowed by law. But, more important, we must begin to deploy in this struggle the moral resources that cannot be taken from us as communities.

We are indeed citizens of a state. But we are also, in our daily lives, members of various communities. We belong to kinship networks, to neighborhoods, to churches, and to civic organizations. Our children go to the same schools, and we often attend the same social functions. We are consumers of the same goods and services. We shop in the same places. In short, we share the same social spaces, where respect is earned, and is not always automatically accorded the rich and the powerful.

These spaces are regulated not by law alone, but by norms of decency. These are the sources of our moral identities, far richer and older than the wellsprings of our common citizenship. It is from these that we ultimately draw confirmation for the correctness of our actions in everyday life.

We have not consciously mobilized the power inherent in these moral identities, whereas Ms Arroyo has been brazen in the way she seeks to replenish her rapidly vanishing social and political capital. In the last two weeks, for instance, the newspapers reported her social visits to various Catholic bishops and archbishops. Photographs of these visits have been published in the front pages of major dailies. Often, these religious leaders are tricked into giving her a "pray-over." I hope the bishops are aware that this public display of piety is all part of a calibrated plan to prop up a morally challenged presidency.

If religious leaders allow themselves to be used like this, they may find themselves being confronted by their flocks who, while they might accept their bishops' silence on political issues, would feel revolted by their uncritical anointment of a politically besieged President. Ordinary priests and nuns may call their bishops to account for their actions. The laity, who constitutes the core of the Church as a community, may whisper to their parish priests their misgivings.

What may begin as misgivings could evolve into an explicit resolve to avoid contact with persons who actively work for or who callously profit from the favors dispensed by this immoral and repressive regime. Such avoidance can ripen into open ostracism. This is the extreme form of assertion of the power of a moral community. Its effect is social isolation. It is the consumers' boycott in the realm of social relations.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Middle-class revenge

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

IN JUST 10 DAYS OF NEWSPAPERS, FROM MARCH 6 TO March 15, one gets an idea of the drama playing out in this unstable stage of our lives. On stage as main actors are Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the military, the media and the militants of the recent rallies.

Off stage and perhaps waiting or sleeping in the wings is the middle class, the reluctant actor who hesitates between remaining a bit player or becoming a star.

Dinky Soliman says, "It's the middle class and the comfortable . . . who have got to get over their inertia . . . It's the people who are supposedly better informed and educated . . . who are stuck in moral dilemmas and are waiting for answers." Rina Jimenez-David mentions "the political apathy of the members of the Filipino middle class." Manuel Quezon III notes the "'let's move on' mentality" . . . "the so-called middle-class solution" which he wryly says is "already here" and is really no solution.

Sen. Joker Arroyo in effect asks, "Where's the outrage?" and laments that the public is "slowly accepting and are getting accustomed to this." Raul Pangalanan cites "the waffling Filipino middle class" both attracted and repelled by the Machiavellian "image of strength and determination." Antonio Montalvan wonders why this "silent majority" or "fence-sitters" have remained unmoved.

Already this drama has defied all rules of storytelling with an extended, tingling climax, even longer than the great Nick Joaquin's suspended climaxes. Truly, fact is stranger than fiction. What will it take to move this suspended "sick and tired," disturbed, desperate, unconvinced middle? There has been no bandwagon, no "tipping point," as Ceres Doyo once noted. In 1983 and in 1986, we were "galvanized" in a flash. Are we now lingering in a fog haunted by the ghosts of Edsa's past, Ninoy, the First Quarter Storm and all those who fell?

Who or what will heave this "bulwark of Edsa I and II" across the Rubicon? Who will be the Jimmy Ongpin to "tip" business: who, the Cardinal Sin; who, the Eggie and the Chino of the press; who, the Quintero for the likes of Congress; who, the Diokno and the Tañada in the Senate; who, the Gasty Ortigas from academe? Heaven forbid that there must be another Ninoy and more young martyrs like Ed Jopson and Bobby de la Paz. Who will be the leader that must emerge and unite us all?

Already, individuals and groups have crossed their Rubicon: Brother Luistro, Linggoy, Enteng, Gus, the Black and White Movement, the Hyatt 10, the Batasan 5, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, Risa, Randy, Bishops Labayen, Cruz, Tobias plus many others who don't make it to the papers. I mention their names in tribute, for their making a stand in such parlous times as these, unlike most of us who have chosen to stay on the sidelines. For see, how fearful we have all become.

But the hope of the middle class can no longer be us, the "middle forces" of 20 years ago. Many of us are not exactly going to pasture, but there's a weakness in our gait, a blurring in our eyes. *Hindi na namin kaya*. Either we are ailing, or if not us, our husbands. Many are ensconced in the very Establishment we are up against, some not necessarily as part of the problem—for as long as, for example, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez remember our youth in the Baguio and Tagaytay conferences of the Student Catholic Action. The late Sen. Raul Roco always hearkened to that idealistic youth for ideal is also real.

The generation after us must take over. Let's look at your and our children. One of ours, very concerned in a love-hate sort of way, stepped out on Ayala Avenue at the Edsa commemoration. "Ma, I didn't feel it."

"I know," I said, "it's tainted." One or two children of yours have left for abroad for better jobs in a less hopeless country. Another of ours is apathetic with every ounce of energy consumed by job and livelihood. Another of yours has hands full with parenting. Yours and ours may be curious enough to scan the news but mainly as onlookers. What's the outlook if this situation is typical?

Life has been made very difficult for our children. Many are living near-marginal lives at home or driven to foreign shores by a government that does not deliver, by a Church that teaches them to bow their heads rather than lift them, by media that idiotize, by big business that extracts profits till it hurts.

The once simple but stable middle class of the 1930s up to the mid-1960s (interrupted by the Japanese Occupation) has been reduced to a struggling, disappearing class. Society may be paying for its neglect of the middle class. Far from sleeping, is this then the revenge of the middle class?

But one good thing is certain. The middle class is rightly recognized as the main player for change in a democracy. If we did not think so, we would not be bothered by its lethargy; we would not keep waiting and hoping for the middle class to move.

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda_ph@yahoo.com ; fax 8210659

THEY SAID

Portrait of an enemy

"Conceivably, the worst that can be said against the senator is that he is the President's most vocal critic."

—Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, defending Sen. Aquilino Pimentel who was portrayed in a Malacañang-produced documentary as an "enemy of the state"

Roguish trial

"This is trial by publicity at its worst. There is no court that has passed judgment on us, yet they are already sentencing to death people critical of her (President Macapagal-Arroyo's) administration."

—Gabriela Party-List Rep. Liza Maza on the administration's "rouge's gallery" of purported coup plotters

Unspoken meanings?

"You mean I can't wear anything, ask my friends to join me, talk and denounce the government?"

—Sen. Joker Arroyo decrying the arrest of former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman

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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

Thailand in turmoil

PROTESTS AGAINST THAI PRIME MINISTER THAKSIN SHInawatra swelled after his family sold in January its 49.6-percent stake in the conglomerate Shin Corp. to the Singapore government's Temasek Holdings for $1.9 billion. No tax was paid on the sale.

The sale of Shin, which is into businesses that involve state concessions like mobile phone and satellite services, broadcasting and air travel, occurred just one working day after a law was passed raising foreign-shareholding ceilings.

Opponents of Thaksin, Thailand's richest politician, claim that the deal involved insider trading and tax evasion and that national assets like telecommunications were sold to a foreign government.

Tens of thousands of Thais are taking to the streets in Bangkok to press for Thaksin's ouster. Taking a page from the anti-Marcos movement in early 1986, protesters are boycotting companies linked to Thaksin, his friends and supporters. Temasek is also a target.

Signs of impropriety in Thaksin's handling of his assets were already evident a few years ago. A week before the 2001 election, he was charged with hiding his assets in his telecommunications empire by transferring shares to his relatives, driver, maid and others.

Other controversies include his war on drugs that led to the deaths of some 2,500 small-time drug suppliers and dealers, and his effort to put down a Muslim rebellion in southern Thailand that was marred by the suffocation of 78 demonstrators jammed into police trucks.

PROTESTERS stage a rally in Bangkok to call on Thaksin to step down over allegations of corruption and abuse of power. AFP

Sale of telecom giant to Singapore state firm ignites protests

THE CAMPAIGN TO OUST PRIME Minister Thaksin Shinawatra swelled last month after his family sold its controlling stake in telecommunications giant Shin Corp.

On Jan. 23, five of Thaksin's relatives unloaded 1.49 billion shares (49.6 percent) of Shin to Cedar Holding Co. Ltd. and Aspen Holding Co. Ltd., subsidiaries of Temasek, a Singapore state-owned investment firm. The 73-billion baht ($1.9 billion) deal is the largest takeover in Thai corporate history.

Thaksin's daughter Pinthongta sold 604.6 million shares; his brother-in-law Bhannapot Damapong, 404.4 million shares; his eldest son Panthongtae, 458.6 million shares; his sister Yingluck, 20 million shares and Bhannapot's wife Busaba, 159,600 shares.

Critics found several things wrong with that picture.

1 Thaksin's relatives did not pay tax, saying these were individual transactions done over the stock market and thus were exempted from taxes. Taxes would have skimmed 60 billion baht (Bt) off the amount they got for the shares, according to Sangsit Piriyarangsan, director of Chandrakasem Rajabhat University's Good Governance Research Center.

However, the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) has no record of any such transaction. Kittirat Na-Ranong, SET president, later said Panthongtae and Pinthongta ticked the wrong box in filling out their forms and thus incorrectly reported that the sale was conducted on the stock market. The heirs actually bought the shares outside the market.

Previously, Thaksin had come under fire for having his household servants hold his shares on his behalf. His wife Pojaman Damapong had also transferred 31.32 million of her shares to brother Bhannapot, tax-free.

An opposition senator argued that Bhannapot should have paid the revenue department Bt4.7 billion in taxes. Bhannapot did not pay taxes on the grounds that the shares were given to him "as a gift."

2 Up until three days before the Bt73-billion deal, it had been illegal for foreigners to own more than 25 percent of a Thai telecommunication company. A law passed on Jan. 20 raised the ceiling to 49 percent.

Proxy

Even if Aspen and Cedar now hold slightly more than 49 percent, the foreign shareholding limit was not breached. This is because Cedar is technically a Thai company—51 percent of its holdings are with Kularb Kaew, which, in turn, is 51-percent owned by two Thai investors. However, one of the investors, Pong Sarasin, has admitted that he is just a proxy—Temasek's attempt to make Kularb, and consequently Cedar, Thai companies on paper.

Aspen, Cedar and Kularb were all established a mere two weeks before the deal.

Critics also point out that Shin is not just any telecom firm. Through a virtual monopoly in many industries such as mobile phone and satellite services, the firm made Bt85.6 billion in profit from 2001 to 2004, a jump of 226 percent from 1998 to 2001.

Laos and Cambodia

Shin is also into broadcasting, air travel and consumer finance (it launched a prepaid electronic cash card last year). It also has telecom interests in Laos and Cambodia.

Media watchdog groups have warned that all media may end up in foreign hands if laws are not passed to safeguard against such deals.

3 Also on Jan. 20, the last trading day before the deal, Panthongtae and Pinthongta bought all Shin shares held by Ample Rich Investments Ltd. (329.2 million shares or 10.98 percent). At the time, the shares were trading at between Bt47 and Bt49 and yet Thaksin's children were able to purchase them for just one baht apiece.

When these shares were in turn sold to Temasek, they went for Bt49.25 per share for a profit of Bt15.8 billion.

Incidentally, Thaksin's children did not disclose their purchase. Disclosure is standard procedure for acquiring shares beyond 5 percent in a listed firm. The Securities and Exchange Commission has since fined Panthongtae Bt3.32 million for two counts of disclosure violations and another Bt2.65 million for one violation of tender offer rules.

4 Thaksin himself set up Ample Rich on April 12, 1999, in the tax haven of the British Virgin Islands. The Nation, an English language daily, noted that, "Generally, when people establish secretive shell companies there, they are looking to avoid scrutiny at home."

That it was established outside of Thailand also raises another question: How much money was used to set up Ample Rich? If it had been more than $10 million, Thai laws would have required that Thaksin seek approval from banking authorities.

The Thai Constitution required Thaksin to declare his assets to the National Counter Corruption Commission after becoming Prime Minister in 2001. He did, but he never mentioned Ample Rich.

Thaksin maintains that Ample Rich was eased out of his portfolio by Nov. 30, 2000—yet as of Aug. 26, 2005, Shin's website reported that the Shinawatras and Damapongs held 329.2 million shares, or 10.98 percent of total Shin shares, through their nominee firm Ample Rich.

Democrat Party board executive Sirichok Sopa put it this way: If Thaksin denies any relationship with Ample Rich, his family will have to face criminal offenses for insider trading. But if there is a legal relationship, it means the Prime Minister must face charges of asset concealment.

Sirichok speculated that one reason Ample Rich chose not to sell directly to the Singapore company was that it would be subject to paying a 15-percent tax, versus zero taxes if it sold the shares to individuals like the Shinawatra heirs.

5 The amount of money involved is staggering. The Nation says 27-year-old Panthongtae will have to spend Bt1.3 million or P1.69 million every day for the next 45 years to completely wipe out what he earned from the deal before he reaches the average Thai life expectancy of 72 years.

Protests

All of these resulted in public indignation and the biggest antigovernment protests since May 1992, when a bloody collision between protesters and security forces led to the resignation of Gen. Suchinda Kraprayoon.

The Feb. 4 to Feb. 5 rally at Royal Plaza drew 100,000 people. The event was largely ignored by state-controlled television and radio networks.

Midnight University, an open university set up by academics who teach for free, launched a campaign to get a million people to send Thaksin postcards asking him to resign.

Thaksin was widely perceived to be the country's most corrupt democratically elected leader ever, with pundits saying his much-touted "tenacious CEO-style leadership that gets things done"—which many people thought was what Thailand needed to get ahead in the era of globalization—ended up "serving the Prime Minister and his family's selfish gains at the expense of public interest."

The Prime Minister rode to power on the strength of "Thaksinomics," a package of populist measures such as cheap loans to farmers and subsidized healthcare.

The telecom deal has been called "an innovation in corruption" and "a case study in plundering the country."

Government response

Police had 73 people—including politicians, activists and media mogul Sondhi Limthongkul, one of Thaksin's most vocal critics—put under surveillance. The government even barred Sondhi's supporters from staging another rally at the Royal Plaza. *(See Thaksin versus the media.)*

Pressure on the Prime Minister's critics didn't just come from the government. Pro-Thaksin alumni of Chulalongkorn University called for the resignation of the Political Science dean, Prof. Amara Pongsapich, who was at the forefront of an academe-based protest. Chulalongkorn faculty threatened to resign en masse if Amara was forced to leave the university.

Charter change

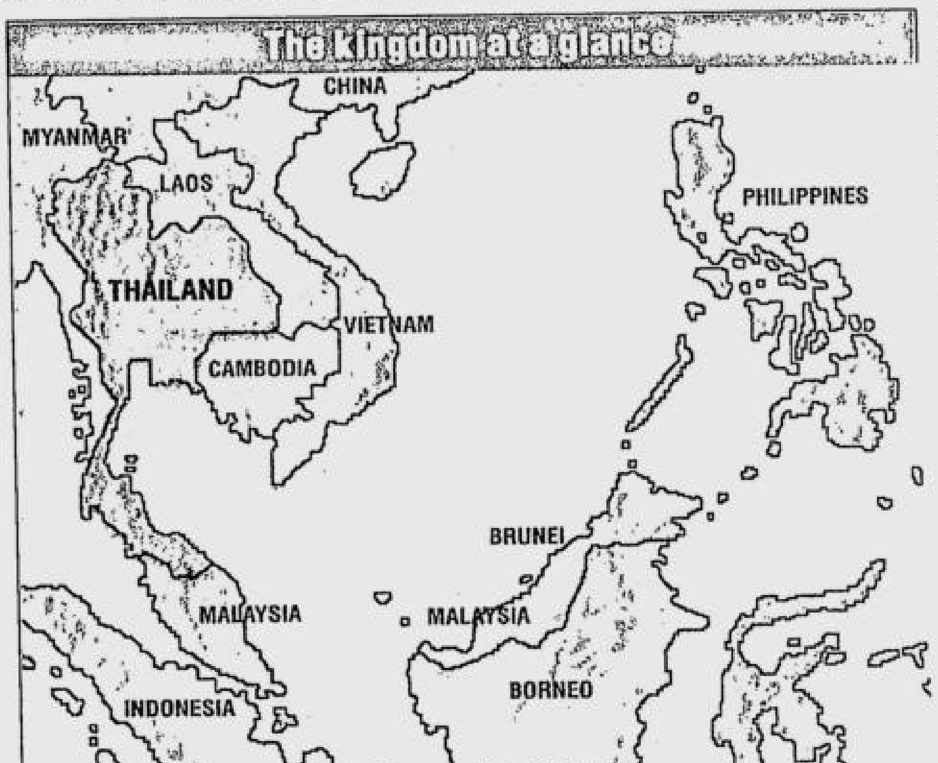
On Feb. 11, Thaksin proposed a national referendum on amending the Constitution in a concession to critics demanding both Charter change and his resignation. Had this pushed through, it would have been the first referendum since the 1997 Constitution was implemented.

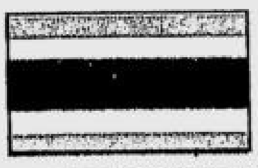
Refusing to resign, he dissolved the House on Feb. 24 and scheduled general elections for April 2. Opposition parties have vowed to boycott the elections, knowing Thaksin's mass base would give him a new mandate.

In his weekly radio address following the announcement of his decision, Thaksin promised a series of new populist measures: pay hikes for government workers, an increase in the minimum wage and debt relief for farmers. ***Compiled by Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research***

SOURCES: HTTP://WWW.NATIONMULTIMEDIA.COM/SPECIALS/SHINCORP/, HTTP://WWW.SHINCORP.COM, AND HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/THAKSIN_SHINAWATRA

The Kingdom at a glance





TWO 19th century kings of Siam, Mongkut and his son Chulalongkorn [who were portrayed in the Hollywood movie "The King and I"] introduced Western education and technology but preserved the character of a devout Buddhist society. The only nation in Southeast Asia to escape colonial rule, Thailand has not escaped military coups—more than a dozen since 1932, when a revolution transformed the government from an absolute to a constitutional monarchy. Resentment against the coup in 1991 sparked demonstrations by a pro-democracy movement.

Area: 514,000 sq km
Population: 63.1 million (2003)
Capital: Bangkok
Religion: Therava Buddhist
Language: Thai
Adult literacy: 92.6 percent (2003)
Life expectancy: 70 years (2003)
Foreign visitors: 10 million (2003)
Tourism earnings: $7.44 billion (2003)
Per capita GDP: $8,300 (estimated purchasing power parity in 2005)
Baht to US dollar rate: 38.92 baht = US$1 (March 22)

(SOURCES: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2005 AND WWW.CIA.GOV)

INQGRAPHIC: ESAMBO

AFP

Career path

THAKSIN worked his way up from police officer to head of the country.

- **1949** Born in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand.
- **1973** Graduates from Thailand's Police Academy and begins an MA in criminal justice at Eastern Kentucky University.
- **1975** Returns to Thailand. Police force assigns him to guard government minister Prida Patthanathabut. Serves more as secretary and go-between than bodyguard and learns the ins and outs of politics and business.
- **1979** Begins several failed business ventures, including distributing movies to provincial cinemas.
- **1981** Starts a business leasing IBM computers to government offices; Sells in 1986 his own computers to the police department he headed.
- **1988-1991** Thai government offers 22 concessions in a sweeping liberalization of the telecommunications sector; Thaksin wins seven of them.
- **1994** Takes the first of several ministerial portfolios in a series of unstable coalition governments.
- **2001** Elected Prime Minister; Acquitted on charges of continuing to manage his family business while in office.
- **2005** Re-elected in a landslide, the first Thai Prime Minister to win an absolute majority in Parliament
- **January 2006** His children sell their 49.6-percent shareholding in Shin tax-free, leaving him personally exposed to critics.
- **Feb. 24** Declares a snap election: a few days later, opposition parties boycott the polls in an attempt to throw their campaign to oust Thaksin back to the streets, where protests are gathering momentum.

SOURCE:WSJ ASIA

Thaksin versus the media

Sept. 15, 2005: Channel 9 cancels a weekly live program *"Muang Thai Rai Sapda"* (Thailand Weekly) hosted by Sondhi Limthongkul, saying it improperly cited His Majesty the King and the monarchy on several occasions the previous month. Sondhi, on the other hand, vows to continue his weekly political talk show, which would turn into a popular public forum that was hosted first at Thammasat University and later at Lumpini Park.

Oct. 3: Thaksin's lawyer files defamation suits against Sondhi, demanding Bt500 million in damages. Named co-defendant was Sarocha Pornudomsak, co-host of *"Muang Thai Rai Sapda."* The lawsuits claimed that the talk show hosts repeatedly accused Thaksin of being disloyal to the monarchy.

Oct. 11: Thaksin's lawyer files another defamation suit against the Manager newspaper, its publisher, and the manager of the media group's business restructuring plan, demanding Bt500 million in damages for an article in the newspaper's Sept. 27 edition, which cited strongly worded comments by Luangta Maha Bua against the Prime Minister.

Nov. 15: Dusadee Sinchirmsiri, Public Relations Department director general, orders officials to stop the broadcast of *"Muang Thai Rai Sapda"* on cable TV on the grounds that it had been running without permission from the department.

Nov. 17: Thaksin wins court order gagging Sondhi after the Prime Minister's lawyer files a further set of civil lawsuits, demanding Bt1 billion in compensation from Sondhi and his media company. The suits claimed that Thaksin's reputation was damaged by an accusation that there was an anomaly in the multibillion-baht satellite contract awarded by the government to a company controlled by Thaksin's family.

Dec. 5: Thaksin's lawyers drop libel charges worth Bt2 billion against Sondhi after the King rebuked the Prime Minister's intolerance to criticisms.

March 15, 2006: Thai Post is acquitted of libel charges in a Bt420-million defamation suit filed by Shin Corp. Charges stemmed from published statements saying that the Prime Minister and the telecom giant enjoyed a "mutually beneficial relationship." But the Thai Post is still facing nearly 10 libel suits filed by Thaksin, his family members and senior figures in his Thai Rak Thai Party.

March 21: The government lodges protest with The Nation, asking the Press Council of Thailand to investigate the paper's ethical conduct following a report that the Prime Minister would no longer be in charge of organizing the commemoration of His Majesty the King's 60th year on the throne. ***Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research***

SOURCE: THE NATION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
A15

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PMA cadets told: Keep off forums

BODY PAINT

ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Participants in the Pintados de Pasi Festival, held every second week of March, have their bodies painted to commemorate a ritual of the Pasinhon native tribe.

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—DEFENSE SECRETARY Avelino Cruz Jr. ordered Philippine Military Academy cadets to stay away from all public forums so they won't be distracted by the ongoing political crisis.

But Cruz said his instructions were not meant to violate the cadets' right to free speech.

"No, I am not discouraging them to [express] their freedom, but when you enter military service, freedom of speech is circumscribed by military discipline, that there should be an adherence to the chain of command," he said.

Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Generoso Senga, said he agreed completely with Cruz's position on the military's exercise of freedom of expression.

"That's part of the five-point guideline which I issued on March 8," Senga told reporters here.

He said the guidelines for officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines cover the military's role in the affairs of the state as prescribed by the Constitution.

The guidelines reiterated the military's respect for civilian supremacy, its adherence to its constitutional mandate as the protector of the people, its non-partisanship and neutrality in politics and the acknowledgment of the limitations of some civil liberties of soldiers under the rules of the military.

The guidelines also said the military should not be regarded as a force to be used by politicians.

"The military is always subject to trials and challenges, but it shall never allow itself to be [distracted]. The public can be assured that the military will continue to be professional and united."

In his speech before members of the PMA's graduating Mandala Class on Friday, Cruz cited the country's positive economic gains despite the political crisis. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Troops won't be used for poll duty anymore

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—The Commission on Elections has agreed to withdraw soldiers from future election duties, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. told reporters here on Friday.

Cruz said the poll body had agreed to his request not to involve the military in any duty in the 2007 elections.

He said he wanted soldiers removed from election-related duties to protect them from questions of political partisanship.

"Government officials want the military [to secure the conduct of elections] because they have better training and they are more reliable," said Cruz, who was guest during the awarding ceremonies for outstanding graduates of the Mandala Class of the Philippine Military Academy on Friday.

Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Generoso Senga, said more than 2,000 officers and men tasked with election duties and who were assigned as security personnel of politicians, would be recalled to fill up five battalions of the military. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Palace body steps up info drive on Cha-cha

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE Malacanang-created Charter Change Advocacy Commission, a body formed from out of last year's consultative commission, has stepped up its provincial sorties to raise public awareness on constitutional amendments.

Lawyer Ma. Romela Mosqueda-Bengzon, chair of the commission's committee on economic liberalization, said the country "cannot afford delay in the Charter change," voicing her expectation that the plebiscite would be set by Congress either in June or July this year.

According to her, last month's quelled coup further revealed how a centralized system of political power had "swallowed (the nation) in conflict."

"We need economic reforms soon to be able to address political instability," Bengzon said in an interview following her presentation before local officials and business leaders in Pampanga on Wednesday.

The commission also held symposia in Zambales and Bataan and was scheduled to cover the major towns and cities in Northern Luzon next week, she said.

Bengzon, Dr. Ronald Adamat and lawyer Raul Lambino discussed the merits of lifting the ban on foreign ownership in economic enterprises, the need for autonomous territory toward federalism and the need to switch to a parliamentary form of government.

Bengzon said it remains the ball game of Congress to form itself into a constituent assembly (Con-Ass) to rewrite the 1987 Constitution and test in the Supreme Court the proposal of the Senate to have a constitutional commission instead.

"We can't be held hostage by a few in the Senate," she said of the "gridlock" between the two houses of Congress.

She said the commission was watching "parallel efforts" by the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) in getting the Cha-cha agenda get through.

These, she said, include the gathering of 195 signatures needed to convert Congress into a Con-Ass and getting the signatures of 12 percent of registered voters.

Ulap, Bengzon noted, was "quietly working in the countryside." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gloria declares 4-day holiday in 3 Cebu cities

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo officially declared a four-day holiday in the three cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Lapulapu for the duration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit from Dec. 11 to 14.

Under Proclamation No. 1032 signed on March 10 by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on behalf of President Arroyo, it would be non-working holidays for the three cities during the three-day period.

"It is but fitting and proper that the people of these cities be given full opportunity to participate in this important event," the proclamation stated.

Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, who had proposed the four-day holiday to the President, hailed the declaration and said they now intended to exert more effort to ensure the safety of all local and foreign delegates, which might include US President George W. Bush.

Osmeña had proposed the four-day Asean summit period to be declared as non-working days in the three Metro Cebu cities for easier security measure and to decongest the three cities of the usual traffic.

Osmeña feared terrorists might take advantage of the expected presence of at least 18 world leaders to sow terror.

Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Ouano had then described the mayor's proposal as an overreaction but when he received a copy of Proclamation 1032 Friday, he said he respected the decision of the President.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

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Eliver's dilemma: Going to Grade 4

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
Malita, Davao del Sur

ELIVER INGO couldn't decide on whether to continue his studies or not. Entering Grade 4 would mean hours of trekking along treacherous trails and wading in several rivers to reach the school.

The 9-year-old boy belongs to the Tagakaulo, a gentle indigenous tribe living in the hinterlands of Malita, Davao del Sur. His family lives in Sitio Kisawel in Barangay Demoloc, one of the remote villages of the town. So distant is his place that even the sight of a passing vehicle would send small children away in fright.

The village has no electricity.

If somebody gets sick, relatives would have to walk for at least half a day to reach the nearest barangay health center.

For the Tagakaulo children, attending primary classes poses no problem. A couple of years ago, the Australian-funded Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM), started a primary school in their village.

"I enjoy school because I'm with my friends," Eliver said in the vernacular. "I learned many things."

SCHOOL BOY Eliver Ingo (front) of the Tagakaulo tribe in Malita, Davao del Sur says he loves going to school, which is the best thing that ever happened to their remote village. But crossing rivers and long hours of walk before reaching his school is a hurdle for him and his classmates. DENNIS JAY SANTOS

But after Grade 3, the boy is not sure if he can go to the next level. The nearest elementary school is several kilometers away, and going there would take most of his time.

Swollen river

"It is too far and sometimes the river becomes so swollen that it makes it difficult for the children to cross," Eliver's mother Ema said.

Salvacion delos Santos, a public school teacher who has been with the *lumad* community for the past two decades, said the absence of a complete elementary facility in Demoloc made it harder for the Tagakaulo to pursue basic education.

"Some of these kids wake up as early as 5 o'clock in the morning just to reach their school by 8 a.m. And they are dismissed early in the afternoon, by 3 or 4, so they can be home by 7 in the evening." Delos Santos said.

The road to the school is also dangerous, she said. In one instance, she recalled, a rock fell from the top of a hill and struck a small child on the road. His body hurtled off the cliff.

"The child died instantly," Delos Santos said.

Farm help

These are just some of the pains and troubles the children undergo just to get basic education, Delos Santos said.

Because of the situation, the children would rather stay home and help their parents till the farm, said Clara Baliota, barangay chair.

"By the time they reach 14 or 15 [years old], they start marrying at the behest of their parents," Baliota said.

But with education, she said, the children could contribute more for the betterment of the village.

For the likes of Ingo, continuing his studies right within the village might just become possible.

The BEAM said it was studying a plan to include other elementary levels in the village's school so Eliver and the other children would no longer have to trek for hours every day.

Earlier, Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Tony Hely said the Australian Aid for International Development was pouring more money for education in Mindanao.

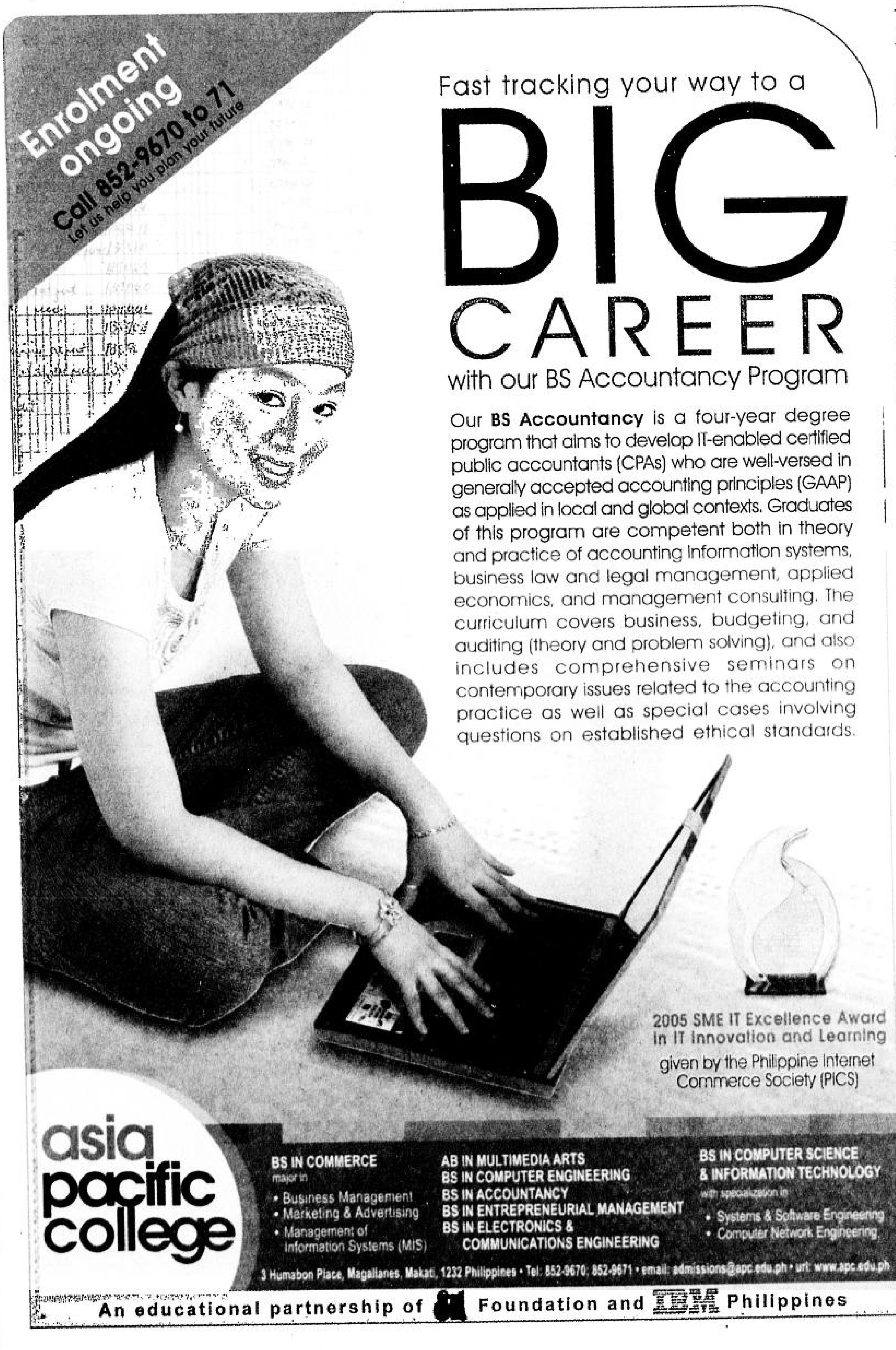
Poverty reduction

Hely said giving basic education to the children could help them "get a good job" someday and reduce poverty in their communities.

Dr. Ian D'Arcy Walsh, BEAM director, said Australia and the Philippines had forged a six-year bilateral program principally focused on improving education in Southern and Central Mindanao, and the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.

Richard Flores, a teacher in Barangay Kisawel, said education had greatly improved the lot of indigenous communities.

The children used to be so shy that the sight of urban settlers visiting their village would send them into hiding, he said. "That feeling is slowly diminishing," Their parents are even proud that their children are learning, Flores added.



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Farmers get better deal with rice mill

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing
Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur

RICE FARMERS IN Prosperidad town, Agusan del Sur see a better future ahead.

For much too long, they fell prey to the seemingly never-ending cycle of debt-scheme arrangement from usurers and trader-financiers every planting season. With high interest rates, they end up with nothing during harvest time as deductions mount from fertilizers to emergencies.

But all that may change with the setting up of the Farm-Level Grains Center (FLGC), a project initiated by the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) for the implementation of Caraga Region's food sufficiency project in cooperation with the local government unit (LGU) and funded by the Spanish government through Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (Aceci).

The project included the construction and manning of technologically-advanced rice mills that also services *palay* buying, selling and deposit, and trucking to individual and cooperative groups of farmers within the area of reach.

"It has helped ease the financial burden of many of us who have to face human and natural challenges during the planting and harvest seasons," said Edgar Tagaraw, 41, a member of the Gibong River Irrigators Multi-purpose Cooperative, an umbrella organization of nine farmer groups in the area.

With the FLGC, the farmers have been given the chance and option to sell their produce by a few centavos higher per kilo compared to those sold to private rice millers.

"We get a fairly higher bargain considering that each kilo means a lot to us. Also, we benefit from free truck services and safe *palay* deposit," farmer Mario Latay said.

FLGC manager Elbert Gargar said their goal is to reduce the farmers' burden and answer their immediate needs during harvest season.

"Harvest time is the most pressing time for farmers. They need all the support and assistance they can get. We answer to these needs," Gargar added.

FLGC also has another rice mill in operation in Sta. Josefa town. Farmers in the area have started to avail of its services but complain of bureaucratic process.

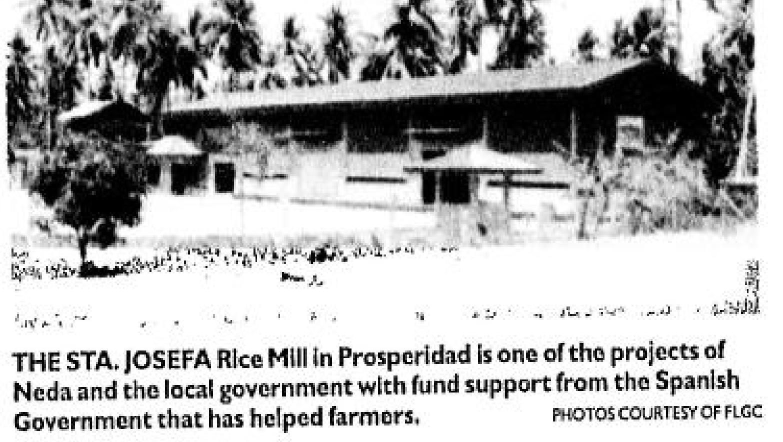
"Farmers bring their produce here at the mill but are required to pay or get paid at the town hall which is at the other side of the town proper. That is too much for them but we can't do anything about it at the moment as the municipal ordinance dictates it," said Rodolfo Fiel, FLGC manager in Sta. Josefa.

He, however, supports the clamor of the farmers and will raise their concerns to authorities.

FLGC also operates in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte. It caters to about 200 farmers from three towns around Lake Mainit.

Like the debt-ridden farmers everywhere, the beneficiaries welcome this project with relief.

"We always seek for a better deal and FLGC is a good one for us," said farmer Rogelio Risultan.



THE STA. JOSEFA Rice Mill in Prosperidad is one of the projects of Neda and the local government with fund support from the Spanish Government that has helped farmers. PHOTOS COURTESY OF FLGC

Velasco may get vacant Supreme Court seat–Gonzalez

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez hinted on Friday that Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr., Supreme Court administrator, may be appointed to the 15-man high tribunal following the retirement of former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. last December.

In a press briefing, Gonzalez said Velasco came up on top of the straw-voting done recently by the Supreme Court on the question of who among the top five people recommended by the Judicial and Bar Council should be named new associate justice of the high court.

Tops list

"That means that for the justices, they are more comfortable with him and they know his competence," Gonzalez said of Velasco, who was at the forefront of the judicial reform program initiated by Davide.

Velasco also topped the list of nominees of the JBC. Other nominees are newly appointed Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura, newly resigned Solgen Alfredo Benipayo, Sandiganbayan Justice Teresita de Castro and Court of Appeals Justice Roberto Barrios.

Gonzalez admits that De Castro is a strong contender for the post and so is Nachura. He said even Benipayo was not out of the running yet.

Palace to decide

"But the situation does not favor (Nachura) because he was just appointed (Solgen) and his appointment to the high court could fuel criticisms about a revolving door policy," he said.

He also denied that De Castro's decisions on the graft and plunder case against President Estrada would affect her chances of being named to the Supreme Court.

"The important thing is the integrity and the competence of the one to be appointed to the high court," he said.

The Palace has yet to decide who among the three would be appointed to the high court.

VELASCO tops straw voting.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SHE WOULD RATHER STAY IN THE SIDELINES BUT ... After meeting with Japanese investors, Josie Fitial (leftmost) socializes with friends, from left, David Peter, Gov. Fitial, Maria Peter and Willie Tan at the Nikko Dusit Hotel in Saipan.

Northern Marianas first lady ...

From page A1

more than enough outsiders, and that the last thing they needed was a foreigner first lady who would bring more of her countrymen to invade this small community.

Because of the economy's dependency on foreign workers, the indigenous people are becoming more and more a minority here.

Filipinos comprise a quarter of the population, and the Chinese make up another quarter.

Naturally, Josie Fitial is hurt by the personal attacks against her. But she generally takes them in stride, saying she has great faith in the open-mindedness of the indigenous people.

Her husband's victory in the tight, four-way gubernatorial race in November 2005 reinforced this belief.

"He wouldn't have won without strong local support," said Josie.

Communicating

She added: "I believe the voters are intelligent enough to get past the idea of having a foreigner first lady. After all, I won't be the one running the government. I'm just here trying to be helpful."

Although she would rather stay on the sidelines, Josie said she had come to accept that she could not hide from public view for as long as her husband was active in politics.

Addressing a crowd of hundreds of people—an idea she once found dreadful—became an inevitable task during the election campaign.

Her ability to communicate in the islands' two indigenous languages—Chamorro and Carolinian—certainly helped, she said.

Josie's Filipino ancestry also came in handy during the election. In order to win votes for her husband, she led a house-to-house campaign among Filipino-born, naturalized US citizens.

Official responsibilities

With her husband now holding the highest position in the Commonwealth, Josie is called upon to take on official responsibilities.

Entertaining foreign dignitaries and representing the governor at social functions have become part of her once relaxed, island lifestyle.

The first lady said she intended to initiate her own projects but that supporting her husband's goals would be foremost on her agenda.

But first, she needs help with housekeeping.

The First Couple, it turns out, had been living without household help in their hilltop mansion for the past year.

Doing own housework

"I've been doing most of the housework for a year now," she disclosed. "I didn't mind doing it. We live alone with our youngest child, so there's rarely anything to do anyway. I only need help because I am spending more and more time out of the house."

She and the governor have two children: 20-year-old Christine, a premedicine student at the University of San Diego in California, and 17-year-old Patrick, a senior at a Catholic school in Saipan.

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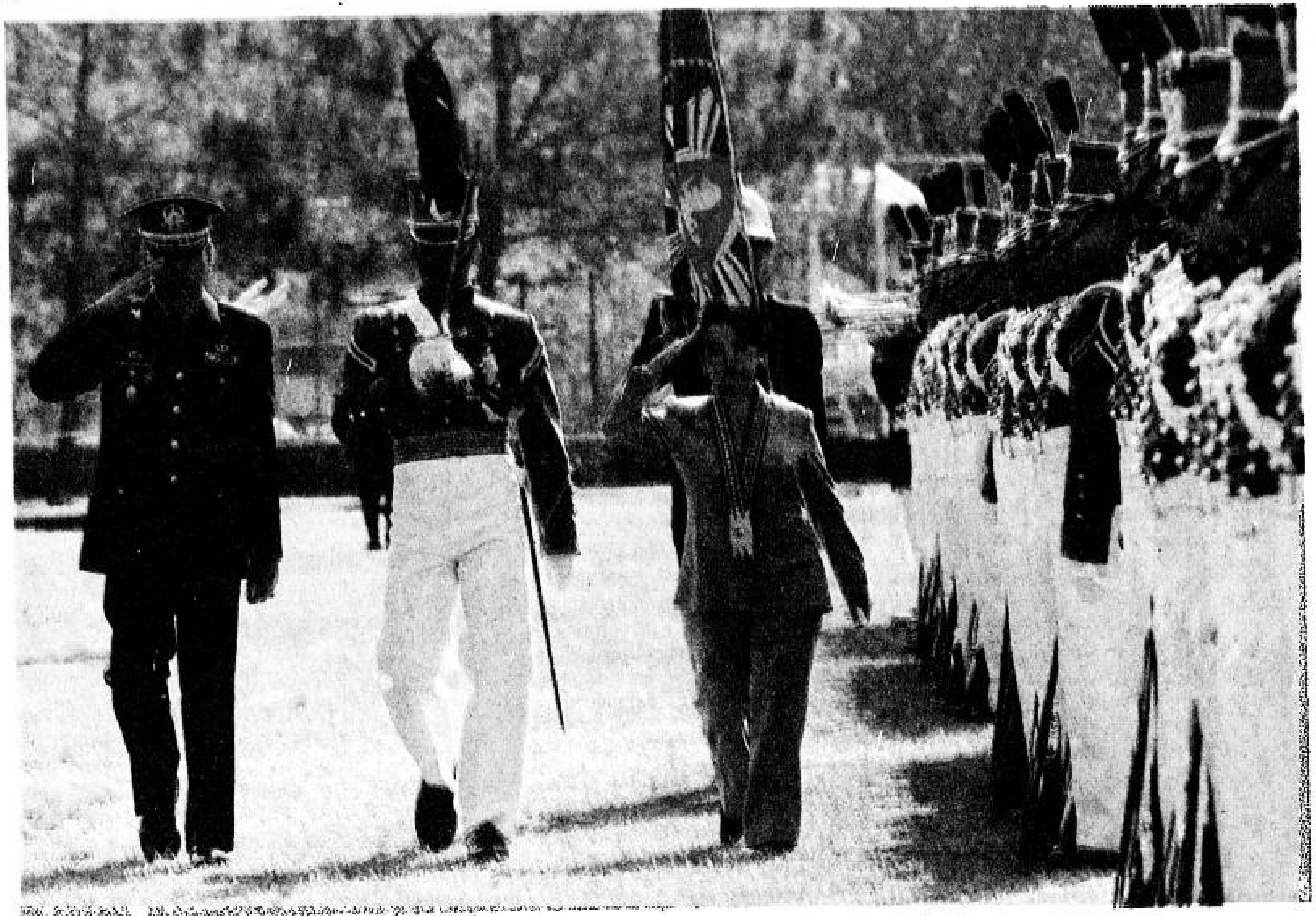

GRADUATION RITUALS include President Arroyo trooping the line with PMA Superintendent Brig. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig. LYN RILLON

THE TOUGH GETS GOING. Presidential guards remain on alert as they secure the grandstand at the PMA, the country's premier military school, before, during and after President Arroyo's speech at the graduation rites in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

GMA talks tough, stresses loyalty

From page A1

condition of anonymity, claimed the targets of rebel recruitment were not just their three classmates but also others, and that the "recruiters are here in Baguio City."

"We decided as a class to report it to (Maligalig)," one of the cadets said.

Maligalig said the recruitment attempt was documented.

No bombs

"We kept it under wraps because there was an ongoing intelligence operation ... Our cadets also went to Manila. At one time we had a workshop in Camp Aguinaldo, where the trial of the Magdalo group was being held. One thing led to another and ... there was an attempted recruitment," Maligalig said.

Maligalig said the AFP would keep the names of the cadets confidential so as not to blemish their records "now that they are embarking on their careers."

No bombs exploded at the PMA while Ms Arroyo was around. Malacañang had said it had stumbled upon a plot by rebels to kill Ms Arroyo, possibly at the PMA, and the Armed Forces declared a full alert, fearing a reprise of an incident in the 1980s when bombs exploded over the PMA stage days before then President Corazon Aquino was to address PMA graduates.

Yesterday's graduation ceremonies went off without a hitch.

No leniency

Ms Arroyo in her speech referred to efforts to recruit the cadets to the rebel cause.

"There are many forces that wish to drag us back and stop our forward progress. Some of you know that personally. Some of you have been the object of attempts for recruitment," she said.

When she said she had no intention of treating the plotters with leniency, Ms Arroyo was apparently referring to military rebels in the 1980s who were punished merely with pushups by the Aquino administration.

Ms Arroyo said: "As your commander in chief, I will not tolerate any diversion from the path we are on. We have a plan to modernize our economy, and we will fulfill it. We have a plan to modernize our system of government, and we will fulfill it. And we have a plan to reform our military to protect and strengthen our nation, and we will fulfill it."

Two major threats

She also said: "I expect you to be loyal to your values, to your nation and to your Constitution. And in return, I will remain steadfast in my loyalty to you and to the cause we all share—the fight for a just, a fair and a stable democracy," she said.

She identified two of the main security threats to the country as the "communist thugs who live by an outmoded godless ideology, devoid of the values that you live by and die for everyday" and "terrorist extremists who have so perverted religion."

Ms Arroyo also said her administration had invested heavily in new equipment and training to professionalize the military.

"You, our new officers, deserve the embrace of the nation and I also embrace you today. But you need more than just an embrace. You need guns to work, shelter for your families and an undivided focus on security concerns, not political intrigue," she said.

The President ordered Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz to "follow a roadmap for Philippine defense reforms for reforming our military into a world class fighting force."

Tight security

The cadets' relatives and parents endured a 20-minute security check at at least four security outposts manned jointly by the Presidential Security Group, the local police and PMA personnel.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, in an interview, said the President was determined to act tough on coup plotters.

"Following the military justice system, the President is saying we will have to apply it to everybody equally," he said.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said Ms Arroyo was keen about setting an example to troops who might cross the line, including throwing high profile officers in jail.

"That is very correct. We will do whatever is provided (for) in the ... Articles of War and the Revised Penal Code, which provide for imprisonment that could be for life."

Esperon said Ms Arroyo's statements were meant to tell the cadets what their role in the AFP system was.

'We tell you what to do'

"When you are in the military, you have to accept the fact you have rejected your right to say what you want to say, how you want to dress, where you want to be," Esperon said. "At the word of the commander, they should rise early, climb mountains, endure bad weather, endure hard terrain and the bullet of the enemy ... I do that every now and then to my men in our training."

Next chief of staff

Esperon said the military was getting a big push in its efforts to modernize "by making available P5 billion every year for the next six years or more."

He noted that the last major funding for the military was made 10 years ago.

Esperon, who is the odds-on favorite to be the next chief of staff after Gen. Generoso Senga retires in July this year, is optimistic the P40-billion fund would defuse the restiveness in the military.

Money can solve problems

"Oh yes (it will solve our problems). It will not solve a lot in the first year but it will be a continuous program that has a sure funding from now on," he said.

Ermita pegged the government's budget for the defense reform program at P40 billion for the next five to eight years.

"The AFP modernization will depend on the availability of funds that the government can muster. If our economic growth is okay, we will be able to sustain expansion of the military and police into becoming a real force that will provide security and protection for the country," said Ermita.

He denied the P40 billion fund was quid pro quo for the military's fealty to the commander in chief.

The AFP said it was not yet ready to scale down its high alert.

"We're still on red alert," AFP Public Information Office chief Col. Tristan Kison said. He could not say when the alert status would be lowered.

With a report from Dona Pazzibugan

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Valedictorian urges 'life of daily heroism'

From page A1

cos Sur, Toledo relied on what he called his "desires, enthusiasm .... dreams and imagination" to top the biggest class to graduate from the PMA in its 108-year history.

Speaking to the graduates in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Toledo thanked his "personal heroes" for what he had achieved so far.

A "touching personal speech," Ms Arroyo said later.

"I would like to thank my sisters. If not for them, I would have not made it to the grandstand right now," Toledo said.

One of them, Immaculada Concepcion Toledo–Rabanal, flew in from Chicago, where she works as a warehouse clerk, to attend his graduation.

Rabanal told the INQUIRER that her brother cried when she told him last week that she would not be able to make it.

"So even with all the problems, I just had to fulfill my promise," she said.

"We not only supported him financially but also spiritually," Rabanal said, referring to her four sisters who, she said, worked abroad to send their younger siblings to school.

Another sister, Marlou Toledo, said: "Ariel's achievement as a class valedictorian is perhaps the turning point in our family. We had problems in the family before and we underwent so many hardships. I hope this will make (things) better for us."

Father, brother killed

Toledo, 25, said he was only 11 when his father and a brother were killed in 1992 in a case the family does not want to talk about.

"My mother supported us by selling wares. Life was hard but that propelled me to strive harder," Toledo said.

In 2001, his mother died. His father's case was never solved.

"Life is full of choices. I would have wallowed in self-pity and led a mediocre life," he said in his speech.

In a message to other young men, he said: "Take all available opportunities and, if not, make these opportunities available."

Toledo called on them to volunteer for government service and take their education seriously.

Briefly, he touched on politics, saying his *mistahs* (classmates) had resolved "to defend the Constitution and protect it against the forces that harm the common good of the country."

Grandpa in G-string

The grandfather of the third ranking graduate, Romel Sotero, attended the graduation wearing native headgear and a G-string.

Felimon Sad-ang, 80, who travelled all the way from Bontoc, Mt. Province, said he was proud Romel and his brother, Randy, both graduated from PMA.

"I am very happy and proud of my grandchildren because both of them made it. I was confident that they would make it because they are both intelligent. I cannot imagine anyone entering this military school who is not intelligent," Sad-ang said.

Breaking tradition, academy officials did not identify the class "goat" (the lowest ranking member of the graduating class).

Roderick Zantoro of Maguindanao, who was called last in the alphabetical roll, "play acted" as the goat, instead. He bowed and waved to his mistahs before he walked off the stage.

The INQUIRERr learned later that the Mandala class' "goat" was Michael Lagula of Parañaque. He will join the Navy.

GMA bats for Cha-cha …

From page A1

"What is important is the process of Charter change itself as well as the outcome. Whether it will materialize or not does not affect this policy-making economic reforms, especially fiscal consolidation," said Agost Benard, associate director of sovereign ratings at S&P, told reporters.

As the President was addressing graduating PMA cadets, barangay officials were busy convincing people to sign up in favor of Charter change.

Malacañang has denied it was behind the signature campaign for a people's initiative, although it saw nothing wrong with the move.

'Voice of the people'

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye defended the signature drive for Charter change amid accusations the administration was spending millions of pesos to get the signatures.

"Everyone has been saying that we must listen to the voice of the people. This is the time to do it. Let us take the debate down to the grassroots and discover their genuine sentiments. For too long, all we have heard are the ranting of pretenders who are just out to grab the headlines. We say that the barangay assemblies are a symbol of democracy at work," Bunye said.

Barangay assemblies were held across the country yesterday on the directive of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

In a memo dated March 10, DILG directed local governments to conduct assemblies on March 25 and Oct. 21 with a signature drive for amending the Constitution as the main agenda.

In a people's initiative, a petition for amendment requires the signatures of at least 12 percent of the total number of registered voters in the country and at least 3 percent of every congressional district.

Local government executives denied reports that people were hauled to barangay assemblies or paid to sign a petition for a peoples's initiative for Cha-cha.

The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, said there was a "massive, spontaneous" turnout in the barangay assemblies.

An umbrella organization of Cha-cha proponents based in Quezon City, Sigaw ng Bayan, also reported a heavy turnout in Metro Manila assemblies.

Sigaw spokesperson Raul Lambino said that in Metro Manila, among the areas where a consensus was reached on the urgency of constitutional reforms were the assemblies in the Quezon City barangays of Sauyo and Roxas District, and in BF Homes in Paranaque.

In yesterday's assemblies, the people were asked if they "approve of the amendments to Article 6 and 7 of the 1987 Constitution changing the form of government from the present bicameral-presidential to a unicameral- parliamentary system in order to achieve greater efficiency, simplicity and economy in government; and providing an Article VXIII as transitory provision for the orderly shift from one system to another."

They were then asked to affix their signatures to the petition.

In Central Luzon, more than enough signatures were reportedly gathered from village assemblies and house-to-house campaigns for the people's initiative scheme.

At past 3 p.m., Josefina Castilla-Go, Central Luzon director of the DILG, said 21 of the 105 districts had surpassed the 3 percent needed signatures.

She did not release the combined results of the initial tally.

In Zambales, Gov. Vicente Magsaysay said they were able to gather 70,000 signatures, representing more than 12 percent of the total registered voters.

Deceit and disinformation

In Olongapo City, Go said all 17 barangays held assemblies.

A resident of Barangay Del Pilar in Castillejos said village officials got P200 for getting signatures.

But Zambales Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II noted deceit, saying residents were made to sign because they were told that they had to so the mayor and the barangay captains would continue their terms in office.

Rep. Ma. Milagros Magsaysay said she herself gathered the signatures in Olongapo City. "I need not pay. They were signing because I am a Magsaysay. Credibility counts," she said.

Barangay officials reportedly used various schemes to obtain the signatures such as giving out cash and rice and through deceit.

P200 daily

Pampanga Board Member Cesar Magat, who represents the 537 barangays in the province, confirmed that he gave P200 daily to each of the 10 volunteers who solicited signatures in his village of San Nicolas in Minalin.

He said the P200 was to pay for their meals, snack and expenses for pens. "I find nothing wrong with that," he added.

A barangay captain in Mexico, Pampanga, said local officials gave money "for operations." He said DILG personnel "obliged" them to "give a favorable showing" for the Cha-cha.

Peasant leader Jose Cunanan assailed local officials in San Pablo 2 in Lubao for asking residents to sign "blank forms."

In Bulacan, Bayan Muna provincial chair Joey Munsayac said the signature campaign was held at the municipal halls in Hagonoy and Obando. Solicitors got P5 for every signature delivered, he said.

Across the Visayas, money reportedly changed hands from mayors and governors to barangay leaders, purportedly as mobilization funds and for snacks.

They don't understand

Except in Leyte, only a fraction of those who went to the barangay assemblies in Cebu, Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental, signed the petitions because they did not understand what a people's initiative or a parliamentary system was all about.

In Tacloban City, some barangay officials admitted having received some cash from the provincial and city governments.

Francisco Yerro, chair of Barangay 37, admitted that aside from receiving P3,000 from Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla, he also received P10,000 from Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez.

But he said the funds were used "to buy food for us to partake of during the assembly and not to bribe the people to sign the petition."

Manny Tumambing, chair of Barangay 13, said the money he got from Petilla was also used "for our snacks."

Payoffs

Militants reported cases of payoffs.

Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas leader, said they received reports from their chapters in Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan, Iloilo, Cebu and Davao that instead of holding barangay assemblies, signatures supposedly for Cha-cha were gathered by "signature collectors" going house to house.

Fortaleza said there was money involved in the gathering of signatures but it was more for barangay leaders and wards of politicians doing the house-to-house.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas reported that barangay officials were giving away money and goods for signatures. *With reports from Nancy Carvajal, Tonette Orejas and Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Carla P. Gomez, Jhunnex Napallacan, Joey Gabieta and Felipe V. Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau; Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Gerald Gene R. Querubin, Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Demonitized bills recycled for Cha-cha

SENATE MINORITY LEADER AQUILINO Pimentel Jr. yesterday warned the Arroyo administration against recycling P10 billion worth of demonetized P1,000 bills to fund its Cha-cha campaign.

"My fear is that the supposedly demonetized bills may be used for the administration's Cha-cha initiative," Pimentel said in a statement.

He said the old P1,000 bills were being kept at the security plant of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) in Quezon City.

Pimentel said the old bills were withdrawn from circulation "a few days" before the scheduled holding of the barangay assemblies.

He recalled that during the authoritarian regime of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, "book entries of the Central Bank were padded to conceal the recycling of bills already withdrawn from circulation."

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Fr. Bernas: From law dean to guru of destabilization

From page A1

Joaquin Bernas as "the guru of destabilization" for his comments and articles allegedly critical of the President.

The Arroyo administration, however, was not about to include Bernas in its list of enemies because he is a man of the cloth, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"We don't consider him an enemy of the state because he's a priest. Maybe that is the message he gets from God," Gonzalez said when asked if Bernas's statements and writings could land him in the government's rogues' gallery.

"I don't think he can do any damage unless he takes all the Ateneo students with him [to commit seditious acts]," he said of Bernas, who is dean emeritus of the Ateneo de Manila Law School.

Bernas had earlier said that the proponents of Charter change through a people's initiative were "probably desperate" in insisting on it despite serious constitutional and legal obstacles.

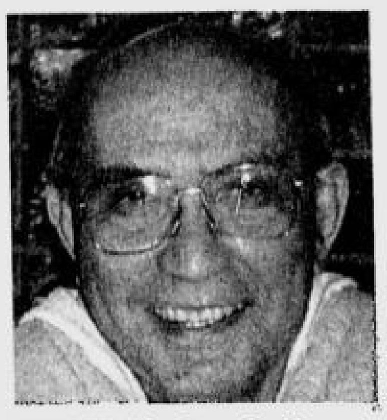
Enabling law

He said that the move would require an enabling law and "even if there was [one], you can only use a people's initiative to make specific changes to the Constitution."

Bernas said in various forums that a people's initiative may be used to change specific provisions in the Constitution. A revision of the Constitution itself, he said, would have to be done through a constitutional assembly (Con-Ass) or constitutional convention (Con-con).

Asked to comment, Gonzalez said: "It seems to me he (Bernas) is the guru of destabilization. Everything he says is always against the President. The problem with Bernas is that he thinks he's the only one who knows the law … the Constitution.

"Every time he talks, he is received by the opposition as the only authority who speaks … and how much he's believed and followed," Gonzalez said. Bernas was one of the framers of the 1987 Charter.



BERNAS: Watch out for his column on Monday.

"[But] that's not my fault," Bernas pointed out.

'Lord and master'

Gonzalez went on to describe Bernas as the "lord and master of all constitutionalists and we have to bow to him."

He added: "Tell him Secretary Gonzalez does not bow to anyone on the Constitution."

Asked for his reaction, Bernas said, "Tell him—'Thank you.'"

Gonzalez stressed that Bernas,, as a constitutionalist, should know that the Constitution speaks in the "plural" sense.

"Personally, I believe you can introduce more amendments by way of a people's initiative because if [Bernas] reads the Constitution, it does not speak in [the] singular but [in the] plural. It says 'amendments to these may also be introduced by people's initiative,'" Gonzalez said.

"Plural. If my English is a little better than Fr. Bernas,' plural means more than one," he added.

Read Monday column

Said Bernas: "*Hayaan mo lang* (Let him be). I'll have a column on that on Monday."

Gonzales did agree with Bernas that introducing an amendment or amendments could encounter legal obstacles because, for one thing, the Supreme Court had "stricken down" the "first people's initiative bill" by a vote of seven for and seven against.

"We really have to test this before the Supreme Court," he said, adding that for now, there was no stopping the people's initiative move.

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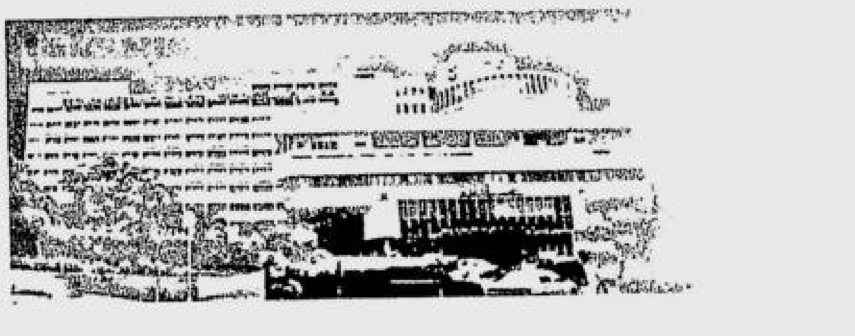

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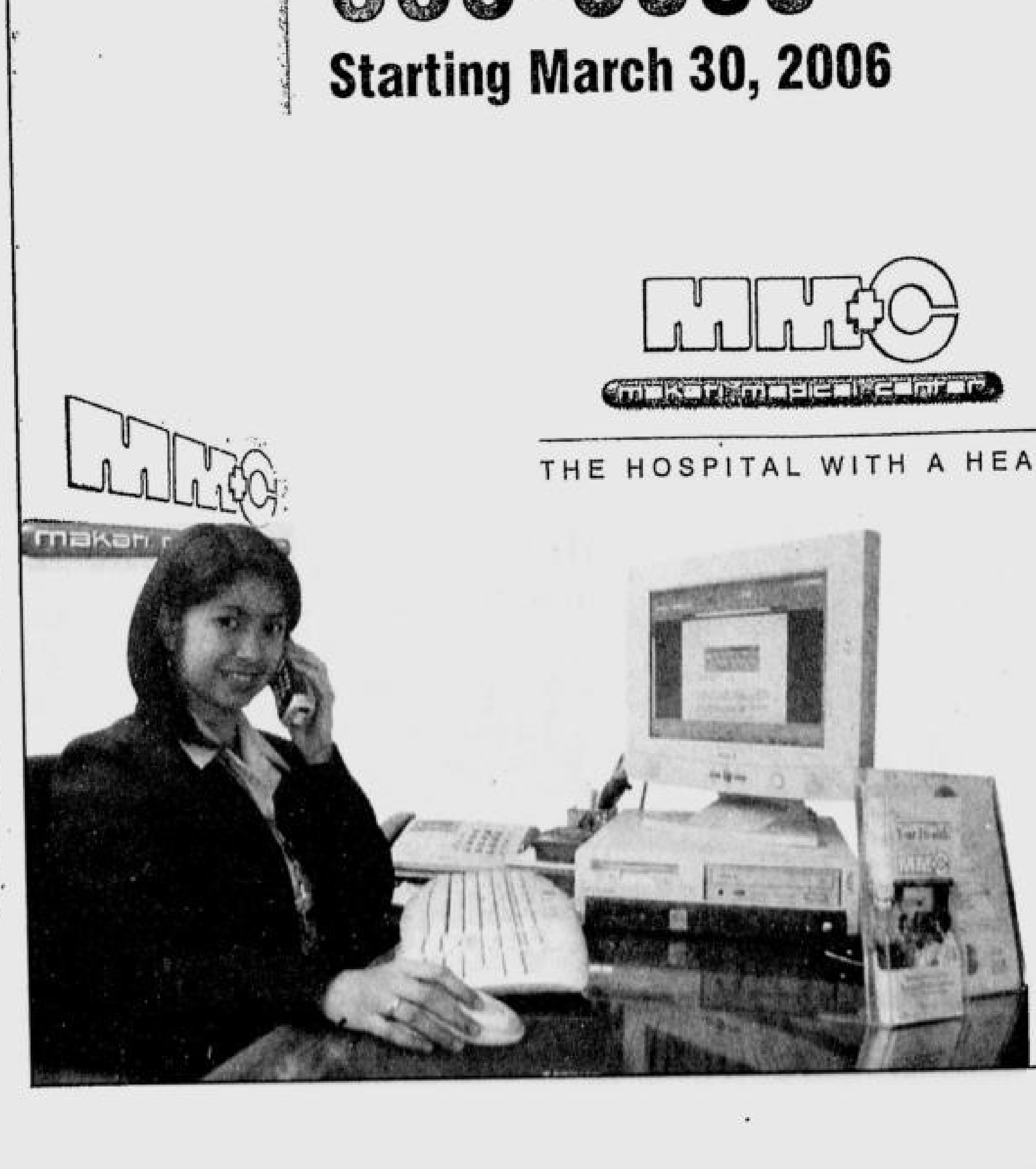

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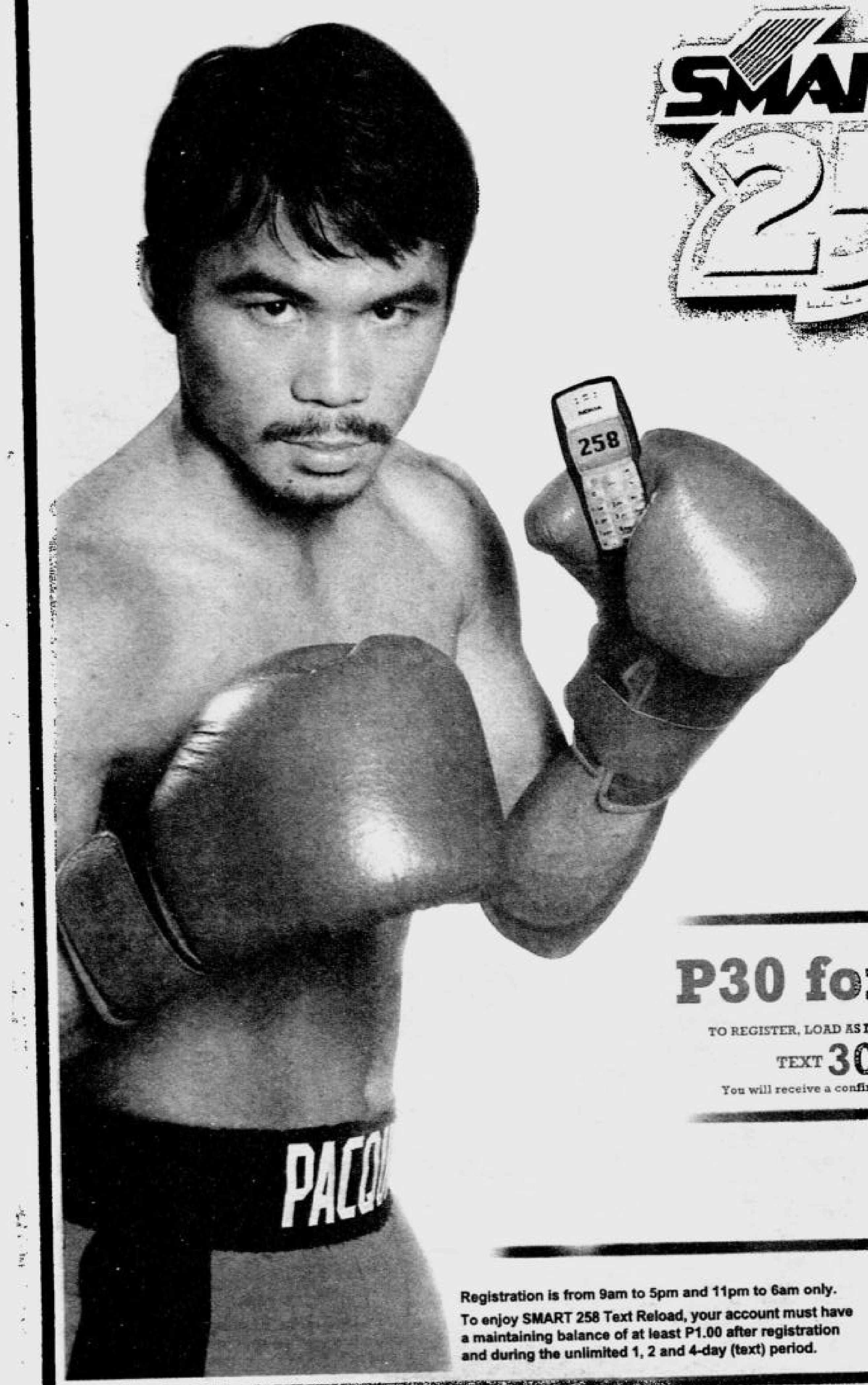

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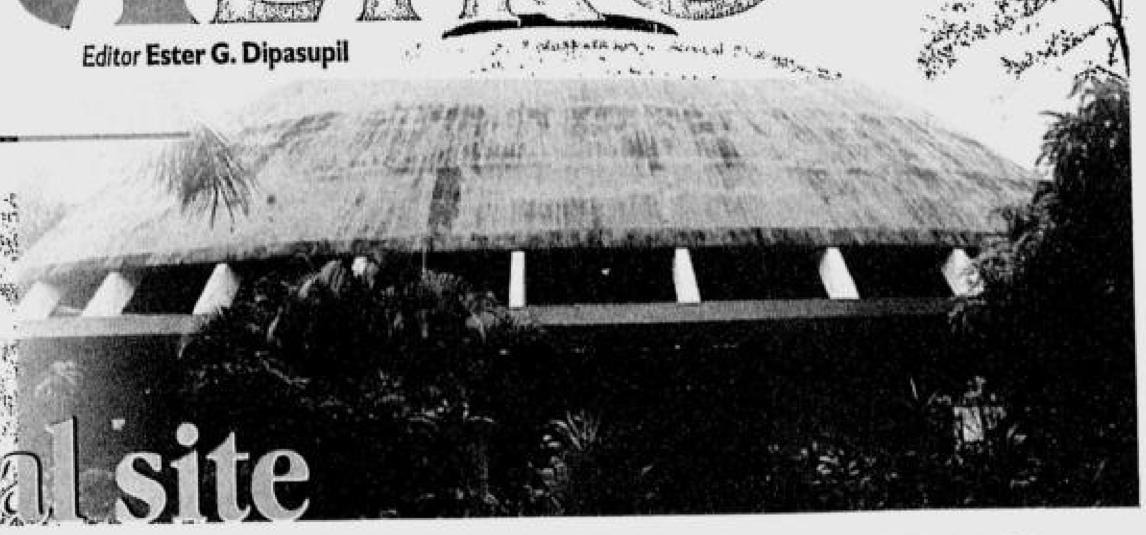


THE CHURCH of the Holy Sacrifice in UP Diliman: the first chapel with a thin shell dome.
JOAN BONDOC

NATIONAL Artist Napoleon Abueva's crucifix which hangs above the altar

First church in the round now a historical site

With many of its original 1,000 loyal parishioners gone, UP chapel thrives in a changing community

By DJ Yap

IT IS THE FIRST CIRCLE-SHAPED CHAPEL IN the country and the only one which houses the works of four National Artists.

Leandro Locsin designed the Church of the Holy Sacrifice at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, as the first "church-in-the-round." Vicente Manansala painted the mural of the Stations of the Cross, while Arturo Luz rendered the "River of Life" terrazzo floor. The crucifix was sculpted by National Artist Napoleon Abueva.

By reputation, these are the features that set the UP Chapel apart from all other places of worship, and the reasons it was declared a National Historical Site at a relatively young age of 50.

The chapel, however, owes its legacy not only to these masterpieces, but also to the UP community, whose collective faith and action, made the church a reality. It was a community of a thousand faithful whose names are forever enshrined at the spot where the altar stands.

Fifty years ago, a scroll bearing the names of 1,000 parishioners was buried there, paying tribute to the people who laid the groundwork for the building and gave the church its spiritual foundation.

Sacred pledge

"One thousand churchgoers—students young and old, professionals, deans and faculty members, academic personnel and employees of the university—had made a pledge: they would attend Mass daily until the chapel was built," wrote Narita Gonzalez in her seminal piece, "A flying saucer of a church."

During the groundbreaking ceremony in December 1955, the scroll containing their names was buried in the center of the property, said Gonzalez, widow of the late novelist, National Artist NVM Gonzalez, in her piece that appeared in the Dec. 11, 1995 issue of the INQUIRER.

As the chapel celebrated its 50th anniversary last December, the names of the 1,000 parishioners were reprinted and included as part of the program.

A few weeks later, on Jan. 12, the UP Chapel would be declared a National Historical Site by the National Historical Institute and an Important Cultural Treasure by the National Museum. A special marker was placed on a wall marking the occasion.

Apart from Gonzalez, another name written on the scroll is that of Florinda Lesaca, a long-time parishioner and retired UP professor.

Father Delaney's dream

Back then, spirits were high, and the camáraderie was almost palpable, as the churchgoers rallied around then UP chaplain Fr. John Patrick Delaney, who had started it all, said Lesaca, mother of violinist John Lesaca.

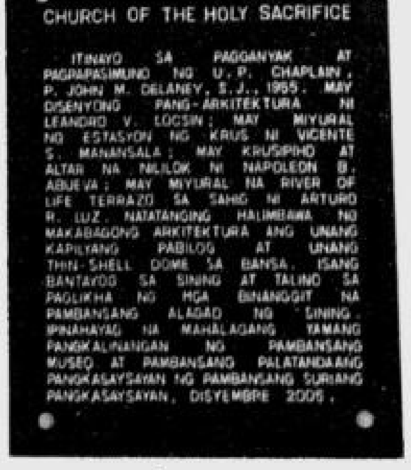
"We were one," she recalled. "We wanted to have our own place of worship."

In the early 1950s, the Catholics and even Protestants and Aglipayans in the university shared a dilapidated, bamboo-and-*sawali* church, Lesaca told the INQUIRER in an interview.

For a time, Delaney, an American Jesuit priest, was content celebrating Mass in the "little brown church." But as the UP community grew and the chapel became even more dilapidated, it soon became clear that the chapel had served its purpose, Gonzalez said.

One evening, Delaney met Locsin at a dinner with the Abueva brothers, Napoleon and

FIRST CHURCH/ A22



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SACRIFICE

ITINAYO SA PAGGANYAK AT PAGPAPASIMUNO NG U.P. CHAPLAIN, P. JOHN M. DELANEY, S.J., 1955. MAY DISENYONG PANG-ARKITEKTURA NI LEANDRO V. LOCSIN; MAY MIYURAL NG ESTASYON NG KRUS NI VICENTE S. MANANSALA; MAY KRUSIPHO AT ALTAR NA NILILOK NI NAPOLEON B. ABUEVA; MAY MIYURAL NA RIVER OF LIFE TERRAZO SA SAHIG NI ARTURO R. LUZ. NATATANGING HALIMBAWA NG MAKABAGONG ARKITEKTURA ANG UNANG KAPILYANG PABILOG AT UNANG THIN-SHELL DOME SA BANSA. ISANG BANTAYOG SA SINING AT TALINO SA PAGLIKHA NG MGA BINANGGIT NA PAMBANSANG ALAGAD NG SINING. IPINAHAYAG NA MAHALAGANG YAMANG PANGKALINANGAN NG PAMBANSANG MUSEO AT PAMBANSANG PALATANDAANG PANGKASAYSAYAN NG PAMBANSANG SURIANG PANGKASAYSAYAN, DISYEMBRE 2005.

THE MARKER announcing the chapel's declaration as a national historical site

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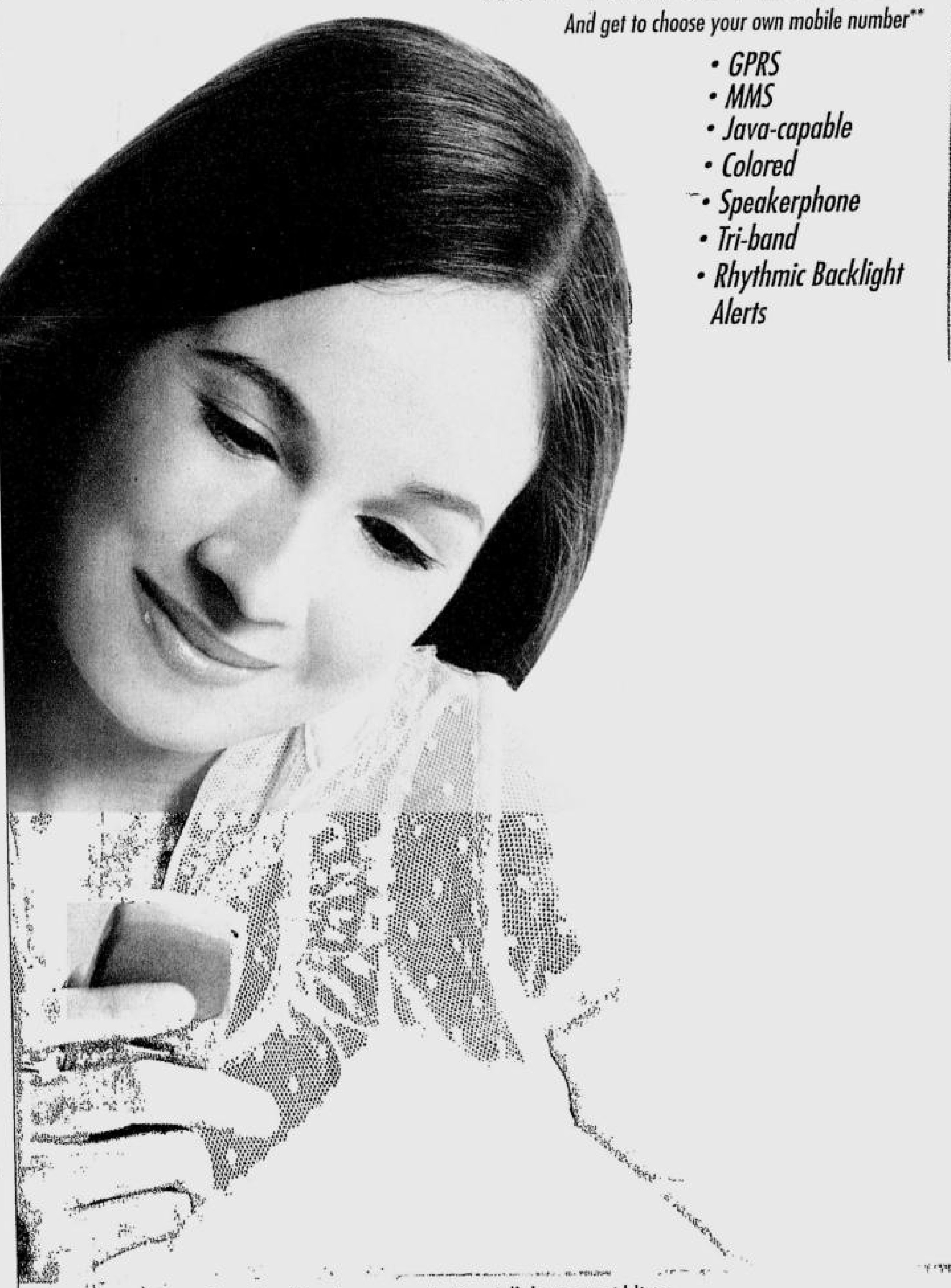


MPD all set for Holy Week

By Tina G. Santos

HOLY WEEK MAY STILL BE SEVeral weeks away, but this early, the Manila police have already laid out security measures to maintain order and prevent terrorist elements from attacking "vulnerable establishments" during the Lenten break.

Manila Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said in a statement that he has ordered his men to protect the Light Rail Transit stations, bus depots, shopping malls, as well as shipping lines in the North and South harbors.

Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics squad, together with their K-9 unit, will also be deployed in public areas, he added.

Cops to guard churches

Bulaong said patrol units and traffic enforcers will be deployed around churches in the city to keep the peace and ensure smooth traffic flow in the areas. They will be assisted by barangay officials, he added.

"Beat patrols (will be) conducting round-the-clock monitoring within their respective areas of responsibility and coordinate with local barangay offices in safeguarding the communities against suspected criminals who may take advantage of the situation," the MPD director said.

Bulaong, meanwhile, also called on residents to be security conscious when they go home to the provinces for Holy Week.

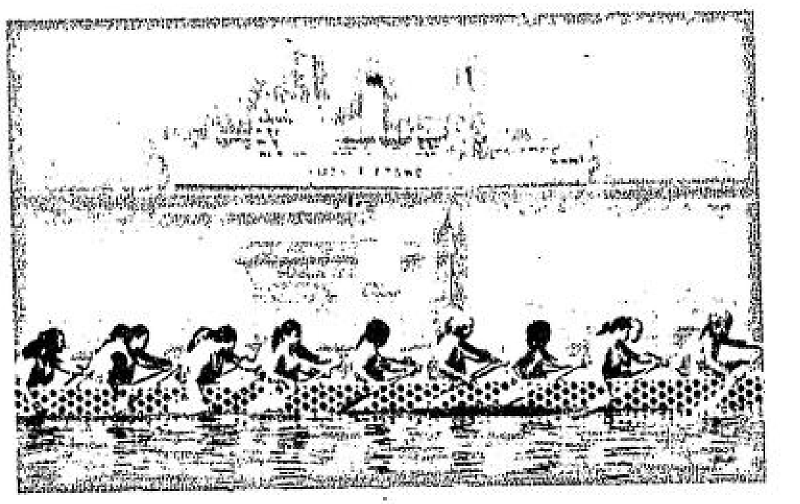
Spiritual break

Because they will be busy during the Lenten break, the Manila police attended a recollection last Friday at the MPD headquarters in United Nations Avenue, Manila.

The one-day affair was organized by MPD officials and gave policemen a chance to talk to spiritual advisers led by Rev. Fr. Larry Faraon.

This year's recollection had the theme, "MPD Towards a Meaningful Change for a Renewed Commitment to Service."

"The theme is significant to the developmental projects being accomplished by the MPD to give invaluable support and dedicated service to the people," Bulaong said.



NAUTICAL FIESTA
An all-women team was one of the participants in the dragon boat competition, one of the events in the two-day Manila Bay festival which kicked off yesterday along Roxas Boulevard. The festival celebrated the start of summer in the city.
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First church in the round . . .

From page A21

former UP president Jose Abueva. Soon, they were conceptualizing a solid, permanent church, one that could withstand the test of time and history.

Recalled Gonzalez: "The concept of a church-in-the-round was exactly what Father Delaney wanted.

The priest must be close to his parishioners as the Mass is celebrated. With the altar in the center of the church and the communion rail around it, a oneness between the celebrating priest and the communicants could be possible," she added.

Lesaca said the round shape symbolized openness: "At any time of the day, one could go to the church and worship." She added that Delaney inculcated in his flock the "love of the Mass and the real way to celebrate Mass."

"He taught us to give due respect to any place of worship. His teachings made such a deep impact on me that even when I go to foreign lands, I would always behave the way I would behave at the UP Chapel—with due respect," she said.

Give till it hurts

As construction details were finished, the fund-raising began in earnest. "This is your church. Help build it. Give till it hurts," Gonzalez quoted Delaney as telling his congregation. "Sorority sisters, bless them, contributed money they would have spent for their ball gowns for sorority dances. Students gave up their movie and *merienda* allowances," she added.

"A young sixth-grader, upon receiving his wages as a movie extra, passed on all his earnings to the church-building fund... Several young professionals and college instructors, calling themselves the 'suicide squad' made a hefty collection of their earnings: the sacrifice truly hurt," Gonzalez added.

But Delaney knew that building a church meant more than strong infrastructure; it also needed a firm spiritual foundation. "This the Diliman community gave him," Gonzalez said. A community of 1,000 faithful pledged to attend Mass every day until the church was completed.

Through the years, the Chapel—and the community that helped build it—grew and became an indispensable part of the university landscape. Said Lesaca: "The UP Chapel draws people in. UP graduates and alumni keep coming back to the church."

But in an interview with the INQUIRER, Gonzalez admitted that members of the original church community had dwindled considerably. "Now, I think there are only 10 of us left!" she said, with many of her colleagues, former faculty members, either dead, retired, or had moved somewhere else.

"Most of us who stayed put are the people who own houses in Area I just a stone's throw from the Chapel, people like Mrs. Lesaca and I," Gonzalez said.

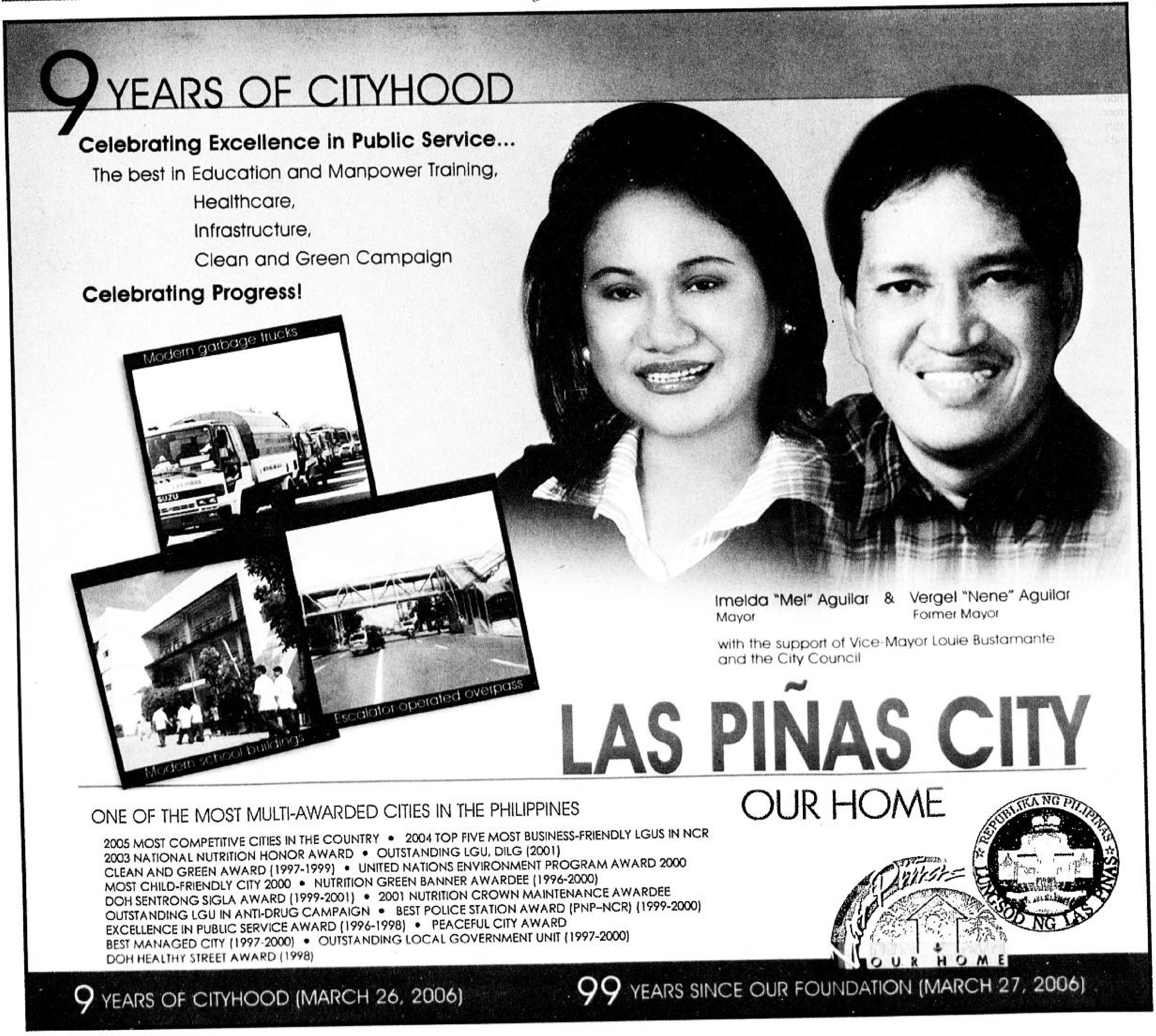
Few 'originals' left

When the Chapel was celebrating its 50th anniversary, the organizers had tried to get in touch with the 1,000 people in the scroll, but very few came, she said. "Most of them had been students 50 years ago. Many have gotten married and now live outside Diliman. The church community keeps changing that I no longer see old people every time I attend Mass," she added.

Even so, Gonzalez is optimistic that the Diliman Catholic community will continue to thrive.

She cited the role of church organizations like the UP Student Catholic Action in ensuring the "continuity" of the UP Chapel tradition. UPSCA is an old student Catholic organization that played a big role in the fund-raising for the chapel, where it is based. "Groups like UPSCA serve as a bridge between the young and old members of the church," Gonzalez said.

"I'm confident the Diliman Catholic community will go on even after its original members are gone," she added.



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OUR HOME

9 YEARS OF CITYHOOD (MARCH 26, 2006)
99 YEARS SINCE OUR FOUNDATION (MARCH 27, 2006)

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

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This section is dedicated to the Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

FUND-RAISING BEAUTIES

OFWs in UK, US, queens in Pangasinan

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

POZORRUBIO, PANGASINAN-—Popularity contests have gone "global" with overseas Filipino workers returning to their hometowns to become "queens" or "princesses" of the town's fiesta celebrations.

They come home and literally treated like queens and princesses during popularity or beauty contests after raising funds from their fellow OFWs to help fund government projects here.

Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani said he was thankful that OFWs, who hail from Pangasinan, had assisted the government fund development projects.

All other OFWs, either single or married, are welcome to become queen and princess

P4M for projects

Some local organizations support them by raising funds in the country.

This eastern Pangasinan town, for example, has raised almost P4 million since 1999 from the fiesta queens and princesses.

Records showed Pozorrubio has 1,764 residents working abroad in 2004.

"The money is used as additional funds for construction of buildings, parks and other projects," said Mayor Artemio Chan.

Urdaneta City has also turned the city fiesta into income-generating ventures from which millions of pesos have been produced to finance infrastructure and other projects.

Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr. said in its fiesta celebration last year, five girls, whose parents are working in the United States and England, vied for the Miss Urdaneta City title.

Miss Urdaneta

Perez said the girls raised a total of P9 million. Half of the amount went to the city government while the rest went to the candidates.

Since 2000 when the city decided to hold popularity contests among Urdaneta natives abroad, it has generated some P24 million.

The money was used to buy garbage trucks and vehicles for the city police, for the construction of a crisis center for women and a four-classroom building of the City College of Urdaneta. Part of the pooled funds will also be used to establish a "Balikbayan Hall" and a "Balikbayan Park" in the city.

P18M

"They join these contests because they are able to help Urdaneta. And they know where their money is going," Perez said.

Another town, Villasis, also started tapping the resources of OFWs during its fiesta celebration in February.

The popularity contest, chaired by businessman Rosendo So, gathered P18 million.

Mayor Nonato Abrenica said the money would be used to renovate the municipal hall.

Dagupan City also staged the "Mrs. Dagupan" contest in December and collected some P3 million from the OFW candidates' supporters.

In Binmaley town, a similar project pooled more than P1 million.

The latest town to tap into the OFWs' resources is Alcala, which will stage a 3-km grill of bangus (milkfish) in April.

Mayor Manuel Collado said the grills were "pre-sold" to OFWs so the town can raise funds for health, education and livelihood projects.

"The money is used to start businesses or to buy tricycles. Then of course, the OFWs invest in real estate and houses. If you go around the town, you will see new, big houses which are usually owned by families with members working abroad," he said.

FAST FACTS

Overseas Filipino Workers' skills
Per Skill (New Hires only)

Major Skill Groups	2003	2004
Service workers (includes waiters, domestic helpers, care-givers, hair dressers, launderers, cooks)	84,021	113,423
Professional, Technical and related workers (includes teachers, medical technicians, nurses, engineers, computer programmers, musicians, architects, accountants)	78,956	94,147
Production and related workers, Transport equipment operators and laborers (includes welders, weavers, tailors, radio & television repairmen, painters, laborers, electricians, drivers)	61,352	63,719
Clerical and related workers (includes stenographers, phone operators, machine operators)	3,965	5,326
Sales workers	2,490	3,950
Agricultural, animal husbandry, forestry workers, fishermen and hunters	413	682
Administrative & Managerial	387	565
Others*	9,927	--
Total	241,511	281,812

*Unclassified jobs as of 2003

SOURCE: PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
COMPILED BY PDI RESEARCH

A Labor Attache's Prayer

By Roy Señeres

L ord Almighty, please help me to preserve
A ware of problems upon my shoulders I bear,
B ad employers, don't let them prevail
O ver hapless workers who face many a travail,
R est days denied, to cite but some I bewail,
A ssist I must anytime of day and night
T irelessly as I fight for what is right
T hinking of their welfare I always will
A s it is my sworn duty to serve them well
C ourage and strength, Lord grant me these
H aving to face countless of challenges
E ternal rest I may ultimately deserve
having done my best to serve.

The author was former RP envoy to UAE, 1994-98

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GMAFILMS

2 good friends gift moms in Taipei, Rome

By Nikko Dizon

DOTING GRANDPARENTS: Magdalena and Rafael Bernal await the homecoming of their daughter Elena Panaligan for their granddaughter Renadel's graduation next month

PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN. Renadel Castillo (left) and Laurice Ann Andrin top their class in Balayan National High School as their mothers work abroad.

BALAYAN, BATANGAS—Two mothers working far away from home have every reason to be proud of the daughters they had to leave behind.

The girls, Renadel Castillo and Laurice Ann Andrin, are graduating valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, from the Balayan National High School next month.

Renadel is the valedictorian for the Basic Education Curriculum while Laurice Ann is the salutatorian for the Special Science Curriculum.

(The SSC valedictorian is Eunice Chavez while the BEC salutatorian is Rochelle Estoce).

Their scholastic achievements are their gift to their mothers, Renadel and Laurice Ann told the INQUIRER in an interview last Thursday.

Renadel's mother, Ellen Panaligan, has been working as a domestic helper in Taipei for the last 10 years while it has been nearly four years since Laurice Ann's mother, Amy, tried her luck in Rome.

"It's the only thing I could give in return for all the sacrifices *nanay* has made just so my sister and I could go to school," Renadel told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

Good friends

Renadel and Laurice Ann became good friends in high school, often studying together in preparation for district competitions.

The moment she started her senior year in high school, Renadel promised herself that she would finish at the top of her class.

"My classmates didn't know that I was really determined to become valedictorian," she recalled.

"I told *nanay* I'll study hard so that I'll graduate valedictorian. *Naku, hindi na po niya nakalimutan yun!* (She never forgot that!)."

Beneath the 15-year-old's wide bright eyes and open smile is a sense of maturity beyond her age.

Grandparents

She has learned to live with her maternal grandparents, Rafael and Magdalena Bernal, who brought her up and her younger sister, 13-year-old Milfean Joy. Her father left them when they were very young, she said.

Renadel handles well the money her mother remits, making sure it is wisely spent.

"Sometimes, my *lolo* would complain about the food because I just buy vegetables and fish good for three days. No meat," she recalled.

Ellen, a college scholar herself, was forced to drop out of school because of her early marriage. Then with two young girls to feed, Ellen decided to leave for abroad and soon found herself a job in Taipei.

A wealthy and generous Taiwanese couple with two young daughters got her as a helper.

On her mother's first year as an OFW, Renadel, then around seven years old, recalled her father tried to get custody of her and her sister but their grandparents fought hard for them.

It was they who helped her and her sister understand why their mother had to work overseas.

Looking back, Renadel said that some of her classmates would often say she was a "rich kid" simply because her mother was earning dollars.

Cleans toilet

"But I'd tell them that we're not wealthy. My mother works as a maid overseas and she cleans the toilet. But I am proud of her. I don't mind telling people that she's a domestic helper," she said.

"From her I've learned to be gutsy. Look, we were able to survive even without my father. I admire her for that."

Sixteen-year-old Laurice Ann, for her part, admitted that she initially lost her drive to do well in her school when her mother Amy left for Italy.

Soon, her mother was constantly on the phone to remind her not to slack off in school.

Laurice Ann said she also learned to adjust to the situation, she said.

Inspiration

"My mother would tell me that we were her inspiration," Laurice Ann said.

"I studied hard again so that all their hard work just to be able to send us to school won't go to waste."

Divinagracia Chua, department head for the high school Basic Education Curriculum, said Renadel and Laurice Ann were one of a kind.

"Here in our school, most of the children of OFWs fail their subjects," she said.

Both Renadel and Laurice Ann admitted that their mothers had pressured them into graduating with honors.

The mothers constantly monitored the girls' grades.

Whenever Ellen and Amy called home, Renadel and Laurice Ann said, they would be asked how they have been faring in school.

"My mother was initially disappointed when I told her I'm a salutatorian," Laurice Ann said.

"She expected that I would be a valedictorian. But now, she has come to terms with it."

Renadel said it was her mother who was more excited upon learning that she would be graduating valedictorian.

"I could not understand a word she said when I spoke to her on the phone. She was so excited. She was talking endlessly," she laughed.

Renadel is set to take up nursing at the Far Eastern University while Laurice Ann would likely pursue accounting at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños.

Working overseas

Both girls have set their sights on working overseas when they finish college.

"That's my dream, along with my cousins," Laurice Ann said. "We know that our relatives who are working abroad are earning well."

Graduation day is on April 5.

Laurice Ann's mother won't be able to attend but Renadel's mother will be arriving on March 29, bringing with her the laptop that her employer bought for Renadel as a graduation gift.

The family's special guest is lawyer Roy Seneres, former ambassador to the United Arab Emirates who helped Renadel's mother survived homesickness through the OFW Club, a support group he organized many years back.

Renadel would be turning 16 on March 30. Her valedictory address, Renadel said, is dedicated to her mother.

Pinoys in Milan learn 'table manners'

Text and photos
by Linda B. Bolido

MICHELLE Abadiano Oddera, a former Cathay Pacific stewardess now based in Milan, teaches OFWs the intricacies of proper table setting at a training session in the Philippine consulate.

THE TABLE WAS SET for a formal dinner. It was covered with a pristine white damask tablecloth. Each place setting had crisp, white napkin and spotless glass, silver and china.

At the head of the table stood Michelle Abadiano Oddera in a white chef's jacket. Several people in the room at the Philippine consulate in Milan, Italy's commercial and industrial hub, were similarly clad.

It was Saturday evening but the consulate was not hosting some ceremonial event though Ambassador Romy Manalo, consul general, was present.

Oddera, a former Cathay Pacific stewardess married to an Italian, was conducting a training on food and beverage for about 20 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and members of their families.

The session was part of the weekend training courses the consulate, through Manalo's initiative, conducted for OFWs based in what poet Ausunio called "Roma Secunda" or second to Rome. The Lombardy region in the north, to which Milan belongs, has some 23,000 documented OFWs.

Oddera was a volunteer trainor and did not get paid for her work. She was teaching the rudiments of proper food and beverage handling and serving both at home and in restaurants, among others. Participants were also introduced to culinary and baking terms, wine and spirits identification.

They learned how to fold a napkin, where to put the spoon and the fork, how to serve the bread, etc. in two two-hour sessions. Lessons in social graces were thrown in. The trainees not only were instructed on where to put the silver and the glasses but also learned table manners, such as which utensil to use for what.

Oddera, who also gave a little history on Italian table practices and manners, said the lessons on etiquette taught the trainees how to behave at their employer's home, a restaurant or some other place.

Like home economics

It was like a traditional home economics class gone coed, as the group consisted of both sexes.

The training programs were initiated by Manalo so Filipinos, even if they were to remain domestic helpers in the city, "could be the best in what they do." The training programs were designed to enhance and upgrade the OFWs' skills so they would be in a better position to keep their jobs.

Manalo, who finished recently his tour of duty in Milan, also expected the program to enhance the image of OFWs as competent and reliable employees. "Better skilled and more informed workers help promote the image of the Philippines and make Filipinos more competitive in the labor market," Manalo pointed out.

Oddera said, "Most of the OFWs in Milan are domestic helpers, caregivers, farm workers and construction workers." The skills upgrading gave OFWs a more thorough knowledge of their work and also gave them added income, she said.

Manalo said the training also provided new options for employment. Participants in the food and beverage course, for instance, could now consider jobs in the food industry.

The training in massage and physical therapy provided some participants extra income without having to leave their current jobs, the ambassador said.

Micro enterprises

A course for women in micro enterprises was also conducted and "graduates" of the program were planning to set up a cooperative, Manalo said.

Training in entrepreneurship in general was organized to help those who planned to return to the Philippines go into business. Manalo not only arranged for someone to talk about starting a business but also had people discuss things like possible sources of financing for new enterprises.

How to save

Another speaker offered advice on how best the OFWs could save their hard-earned money and even make it grow.

The training activities were also designed for OFWs dependents, so they would see opportunities other than those available to their parents and broaden their horizons so they are better prepared for a global community.

Oddera said the volunteer trainors were highly skilled Filipinos in Milan that supported Manalo's goals.

PARTICIPANTS found the weekend training courses arranged by Ambassador Romy Manalo, then consul general in Milan, very helpful in their current jobs. The training also gave them the option to try other occupations, they said. Courses on micro enterprises were also offered.

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6 deaths in Lebanon

By Jerome Aning

A GROUP OF RECRUITERS and Philippine Overseas Employment Administration officials will meet Tuesday to discuss the problem of Filipino domestics dying or running away in Lebanon.

The rising number of cases was due to alleged maltreatment and other abuses committed by employers.

The Philippine Association of Mediterranean Agencies Deploying to Lebanon (Pamadel) expressed alarm that six maids had died in Lebanon since January, reportedly as a result of falling from their employers' apartments.

Pamadel director Raul J. de Vera Jr., in a letter to his group's members and other recruitment agencies, said the problem needed urgent attention.

Rea Jamilla, 26, a native of Boac, Marinduque, was the latest Filipino maid to die in Lebanon. Her body arrived Feb. 26 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. She reportedly fell from her employer's apartment.

Not suicide

Jamilla's brother Prudencio refused to believe she committed suicide. He believed his sister was either trying to escape or was pushed.

He said there was no reason for Jamilla to kill herself. She even told family members in her last phone call that she was doing well in Lebanon.

Last week, the labor department said the government would seek a reinvestigation of Jamilla's death.

Pamadel also expressed concern for 45 stranded domestics housed at the Owwa center of the Philippine Embassy in Beirut, the Lebanese capital.

Labor Attache Glenda Manalo confirmed earlier that most of the runaways, half of whom were undocumented, complained of reduced salaries, maltreatment, verbal and physical abuse, including a few sexual harassment cases.

New comet could be water source for Earth

HONOLULU—OCEAN WATER, LONG BElieved to have come from icy comets beyond Neptune, may have originated in asteroids found in warmer regions much closer to Earth, according to Hawaii astronomers.

Two astronomers at the University of Hawaii found traces of water in an asteroid-like object floating in the solar system near Jupiter. It was a rare discovery in an area so close to the sun and, until know, believed to be orbited only by dry asteroids.

Professor David Jewitt and graduate student Henry Hsieh, who reported the findings, believe that a collision dug a hole into the three asteroids, exposing their liquid interior.

"We think that the water has been buried below the surface of asteroids," Hsieh told The Associated Press. "It's basically been preserved this whole time by being buried, shielded from the sun."

Jewitt and Hsieh spotted the objects last November using the 8-m Gemini North telescope atop Mauna Kea volcano on the Big Island. Their study will appear in Thursday's edition of Science Express, the online edition of the journal Science, which will feature the research in an April print edition.

Because the Earth is believed to have formed too hot to hold water, scientists have long turned to the icy comets as the leading candidates to have brought water to Earth. But recent analysis has shown that comet water differs from ocean water, Jewitt said.

AP

Intel says Russia spied for Saddam

THICK smoke from a burning car is seen on the skyline of Baghdad as the sun sets March 24. Drive-by shootings, roadside bombings and sectarian killings left 30 dead in Iraq Friday. AP

WASHINGTON—RUSSIA GAVE IRAQI leader Saddam Hussein intelligence from inside the US military command on US troop movements after the 2003 invasion of Iraq, according to an official report released Friday.

The intelligence described US plans to move troops up to Baghdad from the south through the Euphrates River valley, bypassing main cities on the way, the Iraqi Perspectives Project said, citing Iraqi documents.

One document quoted in the report said the Russians collected information from sources in the US Central Command in Doha, Qatar.

It is unclear what impact the Russian intelligence had on Saddam. The study depicted the dictator as being so out of touch with reality that he did not believe the United States would invade.

When the operation did start on March 20, 2003, Saddam—who was deposed one month later and is now on trial for crimes against humanity—did not think US forces would go all the way to Baghdad.

"That was only a small part of Saddam's calculus of the decisions he should make, and the actions he should take in the events leading up to the conflict," said Brig. Gen. Anthony Cucolo, who heads the unit that made the study.

Cucolo said he had been "surprised" by the Russian involvement.

Some of the information appeared to have misled the Iraqi leadership into thinking that the main thrust of the US invasion would come from Jordan in the west, not from Kuwait in the south.

The Iraqi commander responsible for the defense of Baghdad from the southeast, Lt. Gen. Raad Hamdani, understood from the start of the offensive that a substantial portion of the coalition force was moving up the west side of the Euphrates, according to the study.

But his superiors countermanded his order to move Iraqi forces to the west to meet the invading force, apparently for fear they might be cut off from Baghdad.

"Significantly, the regime was also receiving intelligence from the Russians that fed suspicions that the attack out of Kuwait was merely a diversion," said the study which quoted a document sent to Saddam four days after air attacks started.

AFP

Spaniards call for talks with ETA after ceasefire

MADRID—A "PERMANENT CEASEFIRE" by separatist group ETA took effect Friday as an opinion poll found the vast majority of Spaniards want a government still urging caution to engage in talks with the armed Basque movement.

Wednesday's ceasefire announcement, delivered by three hooded figures and broadcast on Basque television, has raised hopes that after four decades of assassinations, kidnappings and extortion, peace can come to a region racked by violence.

An Opina poll released by the private Cadena Ser radio station said around 68 percent consider the ceasefire "good news for Spanish society."

The ceasefire officially began at midnight hours after ETA had urged the government and local people to support the peace process after Wednesday announcing it was ending its violent campaign for an independent state in the northern Basque region and parts of southwestern France.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero struck a cautious tone at an EU summit in Brussels, said that "if the (ceasefire) verification conditions I have just explained are met, I will go before parliament in the summer" to ask for parliament's assent in opening a dialogue with Basque radicals.

The poll of 1,000 people showed that just over 80 percent of Spaniards think Zapatero has an "obligation to explore avenues of dialogue with ETA to achieve a definitive end to violence," while almost 13 percent had the opposite view.

However, 34 percent of those polled believe the ceasefire is a "trick" by the Basque movement.

Last May, a majority of lawmakers approved the government line that a dialogue could follow if ETA renounced violence.

Julen Madariaga, a co-founder of ETA in 1959, was optimistic.

"This time I think they are talking seriously. I think the process is irreversible," Madariaga, 73, said.

Spanish First Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega said the government wanted dialogue and would deal with "all parties" committed to peace, saying "terrorists cease to be terrorists" if they hold to that commitment.

But she advised Spaniards not to get carried away in the new climate of optimism.

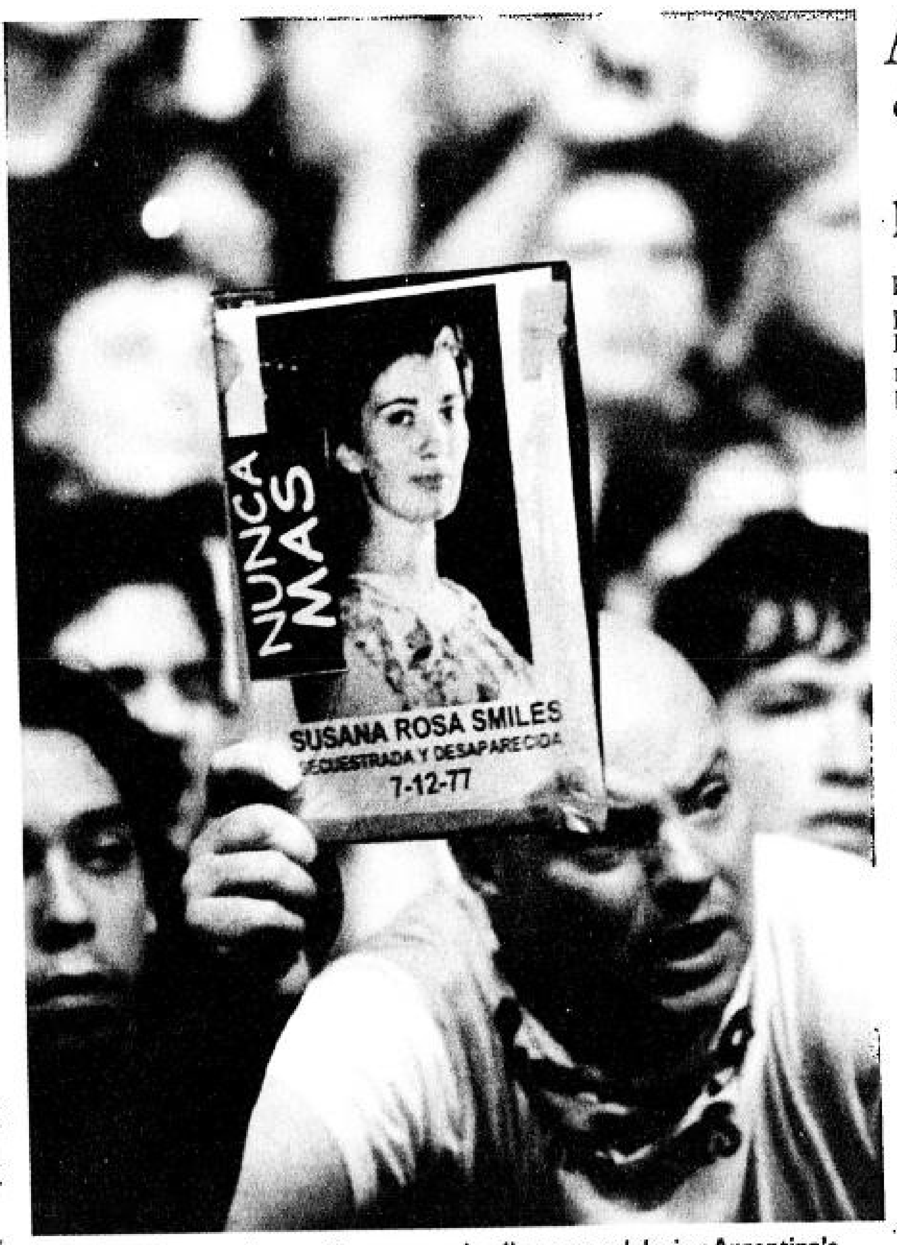
"The duty of government is to maintain caution," De la Vega said after a cabinet meeting, repeating Zapatero's warnings of a "long and difficult road of hope" to be travelled.

At a party meeting in the Basque city of Pamplona, ETA's political wing Batasuna called on "Euskal Herria's (the Basque country's) full array of political, social and union forces" to draw up a strategy committing themselves to a peace process."

In a statement the party added: "The ball is in everybody's court" and said called for "a democratic scenario where solely and exclusively the popular will determines our future as a people."

More than 800 people have died during nearly four decades of struggle for a Basque homeland in one of Western Europe's few internal armed conflicts.

AFP



A MAN holds up a picture of a woman who disappeared during Argentina's "Dirty War" in a demonstration in Buenos Aires March 24. About 11,000 to 30,000 people either died or disappeared during a crackdown by the military to wipe out suspected dissidents during the dictatorship. REUTERS

Argentina's 'Dirty War' remembered

BUENOS AIRES—FAMILIES OF THE 30,000 people believed killed during Argentina's Dirty War on Friday led commemorations to mark the 30th anniversary of the coup that brought the military to power.

Amid signs that the anger against the ex-junta leaders was boiling over into violence, President Nestor Kirchner called on the country's judiciary to quickly decide whether amnesties granted to former military leaders in 1990 were constitutional.

Thousands descended on the Plaza de Mayo square in central Buenos Aires to mark the anniversary of the army takeover in the early hours of March 24, 1976 against President Isabel Martinez de Peron.

The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo, relatives of those who went missing during the brutal dictatorship who have held weekly protests in the square for much of the past three decades, held an all-night vigil to mark the grim anniversary.

"We all want to be present to say 'never again' to military dictatorship," said Argentine Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel.

Films on the dictatorship were shown on a giant screen in the square early in the morning, and huge crowds built up for a major rally later in the day.

Lingering resentment over the seven-year junta boiled over in clashes between police and demonstrators outside the Buenos Aires home of Jose Martinez de Hoz, a former economy minister under the dictatorship.

AFP

Analysts: Asean's approach to Burma not working

RANGOON—THE FAILURE OF A SPECIAL Asean envoy to meet Burma's democratic opposition shows the junta is unwilling to make any commitments to reform, despite growing regional pressure, analysts said Saturday.

But the visit also highlighted the need for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to change its approach to its most problematic member or risk further damaging its credibility.

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar waited months to be allowed to visit the military-ruled country, only to cut short his mission Friday in frustration at being blocked from meeting with the democratic opposition.

"It's not positive at all," said Lim Kit Siang, a member of the Asean Inter-parliamentary Myanmar Caucus (AIPMC).

Syed Hamid held talks with Prime Minister Soe Win during his mission to check on the country's reform efforts amid global criticism of the junta's rights abuses.

But he did not meet with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi or any members of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

"If the special Asean envoy which was dispatched by the Asean leaders in the summit could not meet with Aung San Suu Kyi, then it makes the whole visit completely hollow and meaningless," Lim said.

Burma, which joined the regional grouping in 1997, agreed at last year's Asean summit to invite Syed Hamid in January.

But the visit apparently stalled over the envoy's insistence on meeting Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent most of the last 16 years in jail or under house arrest.

"If the military junta continues to seal off contact with her, it only reflects that the junta is not prepared as yet to be more forthcoming and to be a more responsible regional player."

AFP

Belarus leader faces EU sanctions

BRUSSELS—EUROPEAN UNION LEADERS agreed Friday to impose sanctions on Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko over last weekend's widely-condemned elections and the arrest of opposition protestors overnight.

Stepping up pressure on Belarus—which they called "a sad exception" to democrac in Europe—the leaders said they would widen restrictions beyond the six visa bans now in place on Belarussian officials.

Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Melle said the measures would come into effec around April 10 and could involve mor than a dozen people.

"It's a penalty for (Lukashenko's) sins This is a fight of good against evil," he said.

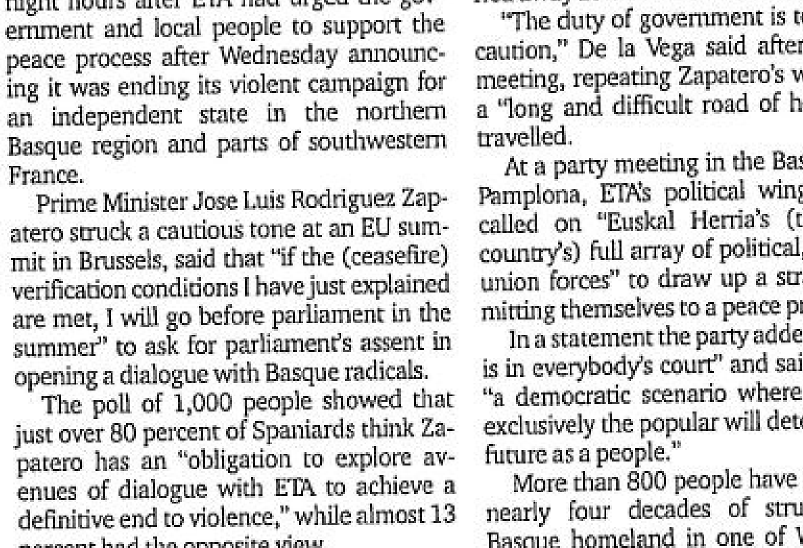
The move came hours after Belaru quashed an unprecedented protest agains Lukashenko, smashing a tent camp in Minsk and arresting hundreds of young opposi tion activists days after the veteran hardlin leader was reelected.

In conclusions from a summit of the 2 nation bloc, the leaders "decided to take re strictive measures against those responsibl for the violations of international elector standards including Presiden Lukashenko."

More travel bans are likely but asse could be also frozen.

AFP

Republicans try to change subject from Bush



UNPOPULAR Bush: His name now akin to a dirty word even in GOP. AP

By John Whitesides

WASHINGTON—REPUBLICANS, BESET BY AN array of political troubles, are cranking up the attacks on Democrats and trying to change the subject from President George W. Bush ahead of November's congressional elections.

With Bush slumping in the polls and Republicans on the defensive over the Iraq war and a series of ethics scandals, the party wants to shift the spotlight away from the White House by convincing voters that Democratic rule would be a dangerous choice.

Republicans hope the strategy will limit the national momentum that Democrats might ride into November and fire up the party's conservative base to ensure they turn up at the polls.

A Time Magazine poll released on Friday showed Democrats favored for House seats by a 9-point margin over Republicans.

Among the 1,003 respondents, fewer than two in five approved of the job either party was doing in Congress.

The poll was conducted on Wednesday and Thursday and had a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

"What the Democrats are trying to do is make this a referendum about Bush," said Republican pollster David Winston.

"What we are saying is, 'Look, this is about a choice.' The strategy is to go out and define what this choice is going to be about and that's what you are beginning to see."

Vice President Dick Cheney fired the latest salvos against Democrats on Friday, saying their "sorry record" on security issues proved they were not capable of leading the war on terrorism.

Reuters

Immigrants march in US

Proposed 'racist' measure stirs explosion of protest

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—UP TO 20,000 protesters marched through the southwestern US city of Phoenix on Friday in an explosion of Hispanic opposition to plans for a draconian crackdown on illegal immigrants.

Police said that 15,000 to 20,000 people took part in the Phoenix demonstration, as more than 2,000 high school students staged a classroom walk-out in Los Angeles and Latinos in the southern city of Atlanta rallied and boycotted businesses to protest plans for a legislative assault on immigration.

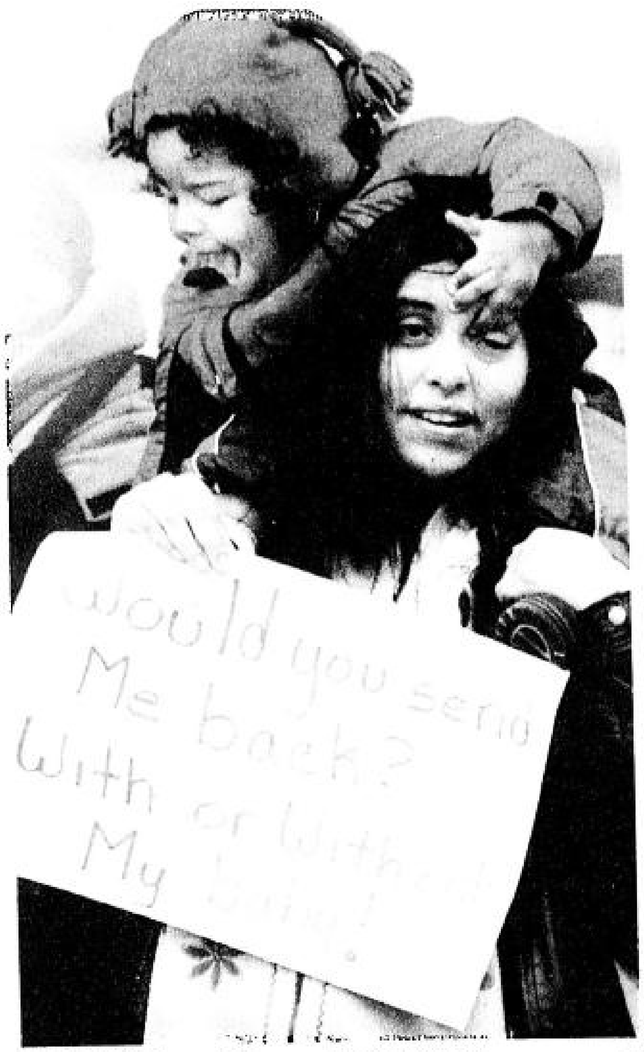
Fresh protests are scheduled to take place across the country in the coming days, including one in Los Angeles on Saturday that organizers claim will attract hundreds of thousands of people.

Friday's march in the Arizona capital of Phoenix paralyzed the city and surprised authorities, who had expected only about 2,500 protesters against a the immigration reform bill to be debated in the US Senate next week.

Opponents have branded the legislation inhumane, unfair and discriminatory.

"It's racist. The origins of this country are based on immigration. They (immigrants) are looking for a better way of life and to work hard and are a very good benefit to this country," said Mexican immigrant Daniel Ravella, a 42-year-old who has lived legally in the United States for four years.

"I don't agree with the way the immigration law is being passed through the Senate," he said as he marched with his wife and two children.


would you send
Me back?
With or Without
My baby!

POIGNANT appeal from mother and child. AP

People clogged the city streets as far as the eye could see, as police on horses, bicycles and in cars scrambled to control the much larger than expected crowd of angry protesters.

The largely Latino demonstrators, waving US and Mexican flags, chanted and brandished banners and placards with slogans such as "We are not criminals, we are human."

"We march today because we are immigrants, we work hard and we love the USA," said illegal immigrant Carlos Diaz, 25, who has lived in Phoenix for the past five years.

"We are a part of the US. We want amnesty. We want to be residents," he said.

In a possible sign of things to come, one banner unfurled by protesters read: "We are a lot, we will be more."

Some 35 million Hispanics, many of them from Mexico, live in the United States and form the basis of the human machinery that keeps the major cities humming.

Latinos who have gained US citizenship form an increasingly important part of the US electorate and make up 12.5 percent of the total population.

The immigration reform bill to be debated next week, House Resolution 4437, targets illegal immigrants, who number some 11.5 million, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, and account for 24 percent of farm workers, 17 percent of cleaners and 14 percent of construction workers. *AFP*

USA BUILT BY IMMIGRANTS
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SUPPORTERS of immigrant rights protest against "punitive immigration reform proposals," especially one approved by the House in December that would make unlawful presence in the US a felony. AP

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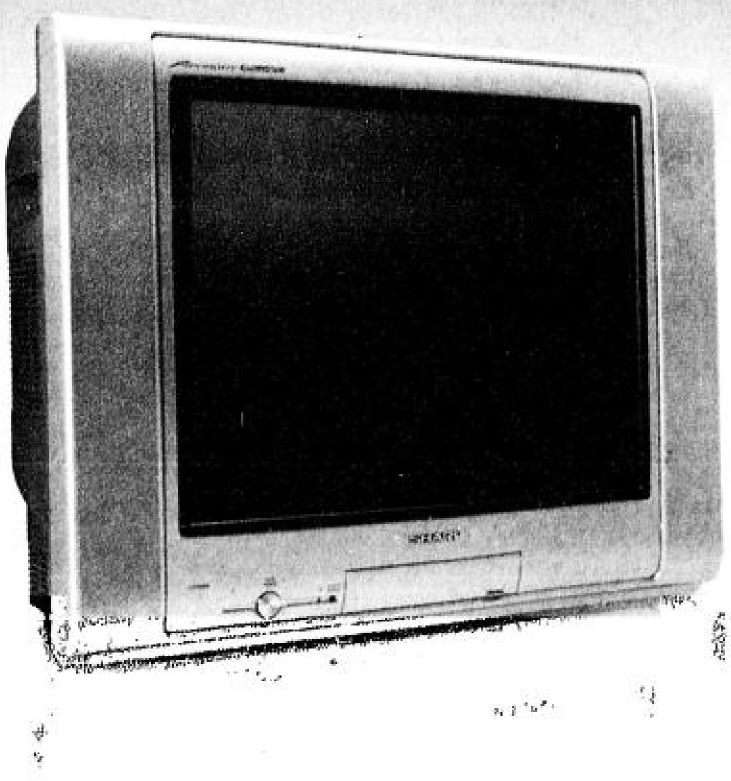

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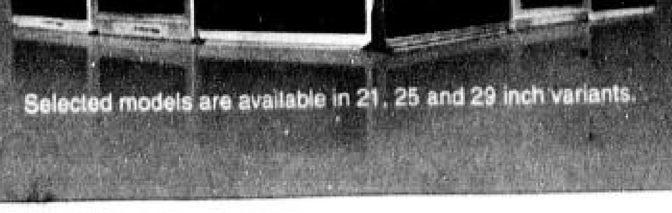

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Pacquiao, 3 other RP pugs battle Mexicans

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

SOUND THE BELL, THE MANNY PACQUIAO-OSCAR Larios fight will finally be held on July 2. And, as bonus, three more Filipino stars will also take on Mexican foes to highlight the Philippine-Mexico ring rivalry.

PACQUIAO

Pacquiao slugs it out with the hard-hitting Larios at the Araneta Coliseum, ending weeks of speculation as to the exact date of the fight expected to draw a record crowd.

The Pacquiao-Larios tiff for the WBC international super featherweight belt is the main event in a card that will be a Philippines versus Mexico affair.

Jimrex Jaca, Randy Suico and Gerry Peñalosa are also seeing action on that day against Mexican foes.

The card was officially announced in a press conference at the Manila Hotel yesterday with Shelly Finkel and Nick Khan, Pacquiao's American managers, in attendance. Also present was renowned trainer Freddie Roach, who accompanied Pacquiao.

"This will be an active and very exciting fight," said Finkel. "Larios throws the most punches in a single round. He's very competitive in the 130-pound."

For his part, Roach said: "Pacquiao can't afford to be less prepared than he was against (Erik) Morales the last time around. That's why we're setting up camp early.

"We have a contract to fight Morales in September, but it's not a done deal because Morales doesn't want to fight at 130," added Finkel, who left for the United States last night.

Roach is leaving today.

Manny Pacquiao Promotions will promote the event expected to be beamed worldwide with ABS-CBN doing the fight coverage.

"It's a dream come true," said Pacquiao. "I want to make Filipinos happy so I want them to see me fight live."

"Nothing gets bigger than this," said Rex "Wakee" Salud, Pacquiao's business associate, who also manages RP super-featherweight champ Jaca.

Peñalosa, the ex-WBC superfly champ, and the world-rated lightweight Suico are also a lock to see action against touted Mexicans.

"Manny had wanted to put Gerry in the card, to see whether he still has the tools to be at the top level of the fight game," Salud added. "Suico is also a great addition, considering his fighting style and punching power that will definitely delight the fans."

Pacquiao will train in the US and in Baguio for the fight to avoid distractions, according to Buboy Fernandez, Pacquiao's trainer.

Also present were Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and ABS-CBN vice president for Manila radio operations Peter Musngi.

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Ildefonso bails out San Mig in Urdaneta

By Musong R. Castillo

URDANETA, PANGASINAN—AN inspired Danny Ildefonso rescued San Miguel in the fourth quarter last night, practically doing everything in a come-from-behind 95-90 victory over Red Bull that gave the Beermen a piece of second place in the PBA Philippine Cup.

Playing in his hometown, Ildefonso scored five of San Miguel's final nine points as the Beermen completed a mighty rally that saw them claw back from as many as nine points down midway in the fourth for their third win in five games.

The Bulls could score no more than nine points inside the final 6:56 to see a two-game winning streak end and drop to 2-2.

Red Bull bungled five free throws in that span, two of them by Enrico Villanueva, and Lordy Tugade missed at least three attempts from three-point territory which aided the team's downfall.

It was the fourth win in as many games for the Beermen in this bustling city since the PBA started playing at the Urdaneta Cultural Center here in 1998.

And it was but fitting that Ildefonso, born and raised here, was the star of the show.

The former Most Valuable Player went on to finish with 21 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, his five points coming in a string as the Beermen finally moved out front, 91-90, after an Ildefonso baby hook with 18.1 seconds left.

Danny Seigle hit the game's final four points from the free throw line after that.

Dorian Peña also shone, his 26 points keeping the Beermen in the game. He also collared 14 rebounds and had two feeds, while Seigle matched Ildefonso's scoring and helped the Beermen control the boards with 12 rebounds.

Villanueva had given the Bulls an 81-72 lead after finishing a 3-on-2 break with a thunderous jam that also drew the fifth foul of Dondon Hontiveros.

He would go on to miss the bonus free throw and baskets came in trickles for the Bulls after that.

Meanwhile, Coca-Cola shoots for a fifth straight win when the Tigers battle a rejuvenated Talk 'N Text side at 6:30 tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Tigers are enjoying their finest start under Binky Favis and another win would equal the franchise's all-time best effort in opening a tournament.

Purefoods and Alaska slug it out in the 4:10 p.m. contest with the winner moving out of a three-team logjam at second.

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6:30 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Coke

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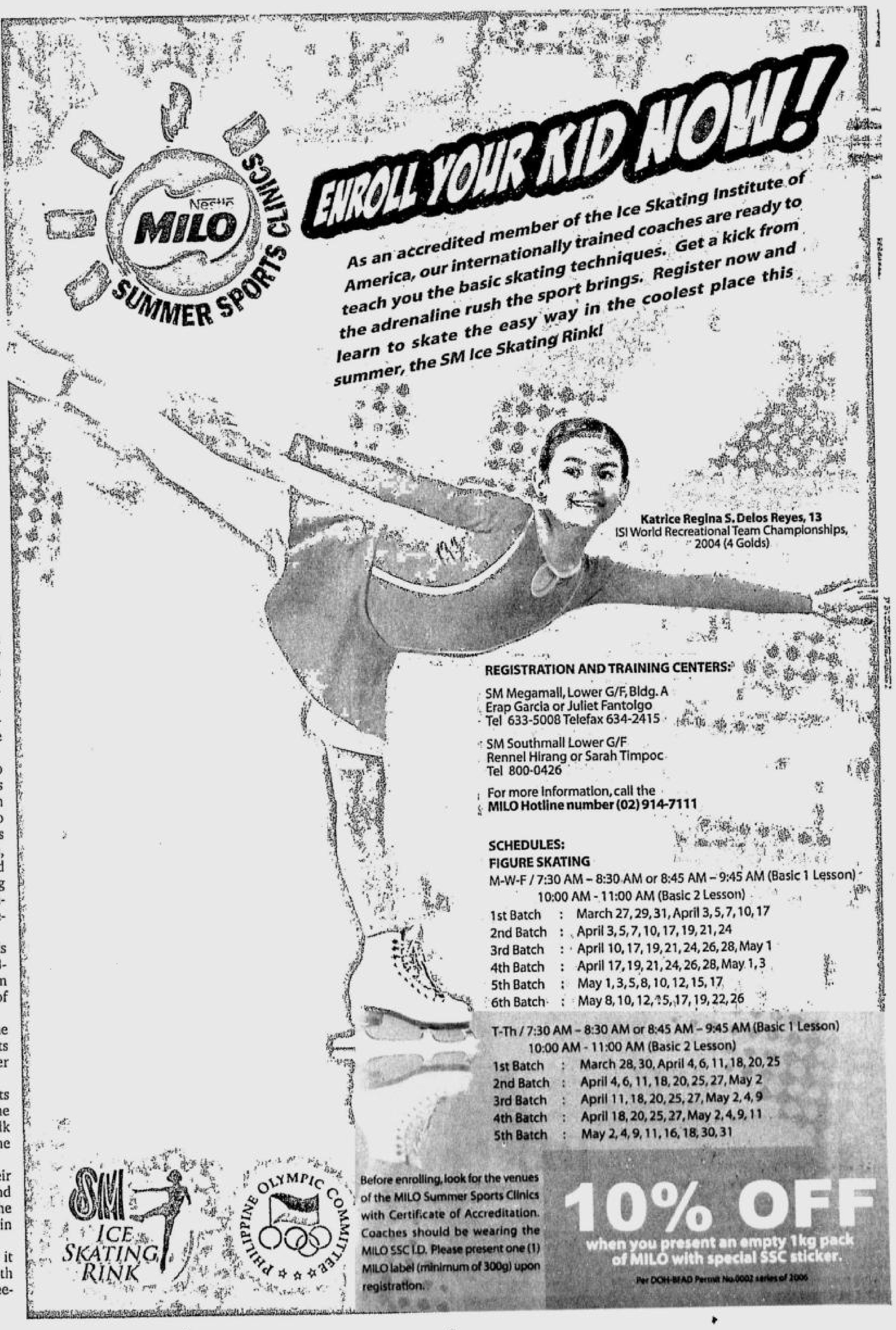
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10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (Basic 2 Lesson)
1st Batch : March 27, 29, 31, April 3, 5, 7, 10, 17
2nd Batch : April 3, 5, 7, 10, 17, 19, 21, 24
3rd Batch : April 10, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, May 1
4th Batch : April 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, May 1, 3
5th Batch : May 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17
6th Batch : May 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 26

T-Th / 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM or 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM (Basic 1 Lesson)
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (Basic 2 Lesson)
1st Batch : March 28, 30, April 4, 6, 11, 18, 20, 25
2nd Batch : April 4, 6, 11, 18, 20, 25, 27, May 2
3rd Batch : April 11, 18, 20, 25, 27, May 2, 4, 9
4th Batch : April 18, 20, 25, 27, May 2, 4, 9, 11
5th Batch : May 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 30, 31

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World champ holds wushu summer training

FORMER WORLD CHAMPION LESTER Pimentel will spearhead a two-month long summer training in wushu—both in Taolu (artistic and non combative) and Sanshou (combative)—beginning on April 3 in different venues in Metro Manila.

Pimentel, who trained celebrities like Jericho Rosales, Heart Evangelista and Carlos Agassi, said the training is part of Wushu Federation of the Philippines' bid to boost its dominant stature in the Asian region.

"We also wish to gather potential athletes to become future national team members because some of our current international champions are product of this camp," said Pimentel, who is director of the National Wushu Development. "Despite our success in the SEA Games, we should continue training and discovering new talents."

Wushu sparked the country's big surge in the SEA Games last year by producing 11 gold medals that led to the country's first overall championship in the biennial event.

Aside from Pimentel, who also won a gold medal in the SEA Games and author of several training curriculum of the association, other members of the coaching staff for Taolu are SEA Games veterans Pedro Quina and Gary Cua while Mark Sangiao will handle the Sanshou training. Santiago is the current record holder for the fastest knockout in the mixed martial arts competition in the country.

The training will be held at the National Wushu Training Center at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum complex (tel. 404-3492), Greenhills Wushu Club in North Greenhills Village in San Juan (tel. 727-8722), Alabang Wushu Club at the Alabang Country Club (0917-956-1670). They will also conduct a workshop for cinematic wushu at the ABS-CBN Talent Center (416-9366 or 415-3828).

Registration is now going on. For inquiries contact Pimentel at 404-3492.

Enerva tilt blasts off April 24-25

SIXTEEN SLOTS ARE UP FOR GRABS IN THE qualifying round of the Enerva International Ladies Championship on April 24-25 at Paeng's Skybowl in Robinson's Galleria, Mandaluyong City.

Organized by RP billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, the event supported by Nature's Best Products, Inc. is sanctioned by the Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports and the Billiard and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) headed by Ernesto "Ernie" Fajardo.

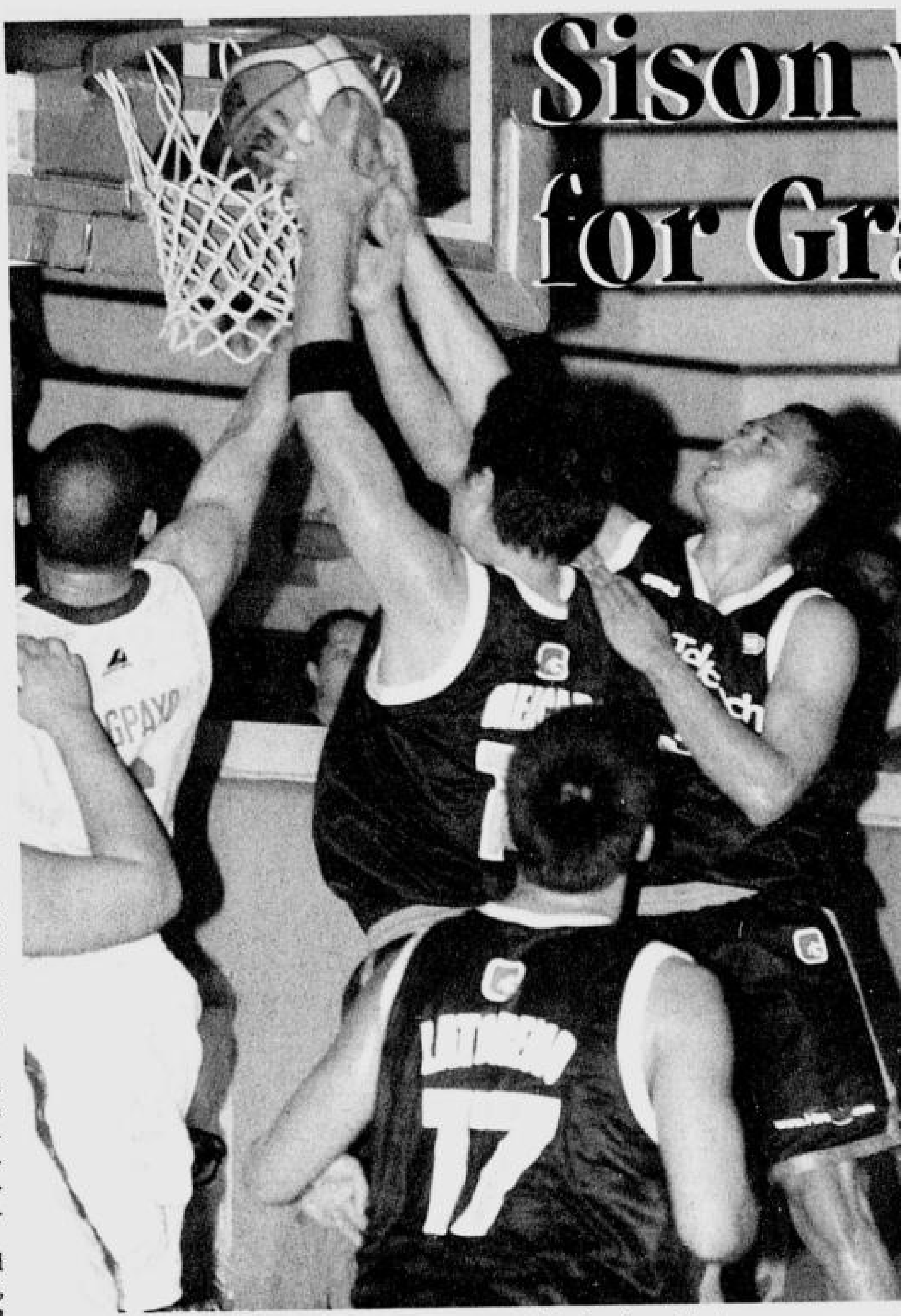
Among the local seeded players in the first international women's pool event hosted by the country are 2005 SEA Games double gold winner Rubilen "Bingkay" Amit and fellow national team members Iris Rañola, Mary Ann Basas and Johanna Dee.

Amit swept the gold medals in the women's division of last year's SEA Games and finished in the top 24 of the World Pool Championship and in the top eight of the Japan Open.

"Rubilen's success in the SEA Games makes the Filipinos aware that our female pool players are capable of bringing honor to the country," said Puyat, president of the organizing Puyat Sports, long-time benefactor of world-renowned Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante.

There will be 16 seeded players in the main draw to be held on April 25 to 28, 2006 at the Robinson's Galleria fountain area in Mandaluyong City. The main draw will include the top female players from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan.

Expected to participate is reigning world champion Ga Young Kim of Korea. For details, call Puyat Sports office at 8969940. *Marlon Bernardino*



MONTAÑA vs Teletech battle for the rebound in this bit of action of their game. RODEL ROTONI

Sison wins debut for Granny Goose

GAMES TODAY
(*La Salle Greenhills Gym*)
2 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Hapee-PCU
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Rain or Shine

By Jasmine W. Payo

ADJUSTMENT WASN'T AN ISSUE for coach Robert Sison and the Granny Goose Tortillos in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday.

Even if Sison had barely spent two weeks with his new squad, the Tortillos surprisingly disposed of the Magnolia Spinners with relative ease, 64-55, to claim an opening-day win at the San Andres Gym.

"I'm just happy that the players responded to my system," said Sison after upsetting last conference's champion.

JR Quiñahan and Kelvin dela Peña, who combined for 26 points, fueled Granny Goose's strong second-quarter performance.

Sison's former team, the Montaña Jewels also had a good opening day, edging league rookie TeleTech Titans, 65-62, in the first game.

Veterans Alex Compton and Froilan Baguion nailed the crucial basket in the final minute after the Titans surprisingly kept pace with the seasoned Jewels the entire game.

Hefty center Ken Bono paced the Jewels with 14 points and 13 rebounds.

"We started late with our preparation because of what happened in the team," said Nel Parado, who took over as Jewels head coach when Sison quit the team after disagreements with the management.

"I'm happy with Granny Goose, I've settled," said Sison. "I'm coaching right now without hatred in my heart."

Despite the loss, Jerry Codiñera remained satisfied with his coaching debut since his Titans gave the Jewels a tough time.

"I'm satisfied with the performance of my players to think that we had to compress everything in two weeks ," said Codiñera.

Earlier, boxing champion Brian Viloria was honored with the Gawad ng Kagitingan.

The scores:

First Game

MONTAÑA 65—Bono 14, Dela Cuesta 12, Baguion 10, Compton 8, Vergara 6, Guerrero 4, Rodriguez 4, Juntilla 3, Magpayo 2, Espiritu 2, Bono 0, Evangelista 0.

TELETECH 62—Doruelo 14, Latoreno 12, Mercado 11, Capus 10, Gelig 7, Villamin 4, Bughao 4, Estrada 0, Mendoza 0, Tolentino 0, Duncil 0, Magdadaro 0.

Quarters: 14-12, 34-30, 41-41, 65-62

Second Game

GRANNY GOOSE 64—Quiñahan 14, Dela Peña 12, Ibañez 10, Santos 6, Concha 5, Latonio 2, Alfad 0, David 0.

MAGNOLIA 55—Williams 13, Santos 9, Chan 7, Te 7, Isip 5, Misolas 4, Co 3, Mangahas 3, Valenzuela 2, Barcelano 2, Bombeo 0.

Quarters: 8-8, 28-17, 49-37, 64-55

Sleepless night for Lim at immigration jail

By Jasmine W. Payo

HE HARDLY SLEPT IN HIS FIRST NIGHT in jail.

"I was up almost the whole night," said Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim a day after he was arrested and detained at the Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Parañaque, on Friday.

"There was no electricity, the generator came late," said Graham. "I was just hoping that it would be morning soon."

But when the morning came, it brought reality along with it.

Hanging over Lim's head is a deportation order which he had earlier branded in an INQUIRER interview as a political maneuver, accusing the Philippine Olympic Committee—the country's highest sports body—of masterminding the fate that befell him.

Expectedly, right after the words flowed out of his mouths, several personalities came to the defense of the Olympic body.

"I don't believe that the POC or any organization is behind this," said international referee Levy Valenzuela, who filed the citizenship case with former BAP official Tito Tagle early last year.

"[The arrest] is long overdue, it has been several months. I personally followed up the case to [Department of Justice secretary Raul] Gonzales two weeks ago."

"Even if we have differences in opinion in basketball, none of the NSAs (National Sports Associations) wanted him deported," said track and field president Go Teng Kok, an erstwhile ally and guardian of Lim. "It's not true that POC is behind this. We're not using the citizenship issue against him."

Whatever the root of the case is, all Lim had wanted after his arrest was to shield his family from the controversy.

"They're out of town, I don't want my family to see me like this," he said. "My secretary called them, telling them that I was in a meeting. But they saw me on television so I couldn't hide it anymore. I don't want them to be part of this politics."

And up until now, he maintains his interest.

"I did nothing to cause great shame in the country," said Lim, who cited several achievements of the national team in the past years. "We have a lot of championship titles that were never recognized. But winning is not everything. We're very close to the international community. No one saw the good things we've done."

Despite having taken a low-key stance to the issue, Lim is a central figure in the current basketball row that has the country suspended from international committee. In fact, among his visitors were Go and BAP president Joey Lina, who are on opposite sides of the basketball struggle.

Lim asserts that he was born and raised here, but BI pointed out that he even filed two petitions to acquire Filipino citizenship via naturalization before the Manila Regional Trial Court and the Office of the Solicitor General.

Endurocross begins today

MOTOCROSS AND TRAIL RIDER ENTHUSIASTS are invited to come and join the 1st leg of the 2006 Endurocross series today at the Timberland Heights Raceway in San Mateo, Rizal.

The event consists of different obstacles, including uphill and downhill slopes and triple jumps on a natural terrain course.

Up for grabs are titles in the Pro, Novice, Beginner Production, Executive Open (35 years old and above), Local Enduro A and B and Special Event. Registration starts at 7 a.m. and ends 10 a.m.

Major sponsors are Filinvest Land Inc. and W.L. Foods and Chadarakobi Production. The event is also supported by Norkis Yamaha, Otto Shoes, Itti Caterpillar, Reyes Haircutters, Advance motorcycle oils, Oakley, RC Cola, Chelsea direct sales, Outdrive engine energzier, Sunbolt sports drink, Access Plus, Dan's Bike shop, JBS, JMS, YRS, Coca-Cola, Sheeha 2 Money Changer, Shell Mocha Blends, Ogie Doggie Hotdogs and Sausages, Networx, Aqua Soft and Mike G's bar and grill, where the event was launched last Wednesday.

Sports Unlimited, Sports TV, Speed and BYK 101 will cover the event while Inside Racing and Motorcycle Magazine will feature the race results.

Four races are set this year, namely on March 26, May 28, Aug. 13 and Nov. 19. The top three winners will receive trophies and cash.

KPS president and race organizer Nani Pazcoguin said those interested may call Racewurx through Allan Ayuson at 0915-4026625, 0918-3715443 or 0922-3258413.

Computer pits mettle vs masters

THE ENTRY OF PALM/HIARCS 9.6 SOFTWARE Personal Digital Assistance (PDA)of businessman Reginald Tee adds color to "President's Invitational Tune-up Games Special" which unreels today at 9 a.m. at the Syncopados KTV BAR (beside Arirang Hotel and in front of Sea Palace) in Mabini, Malate.

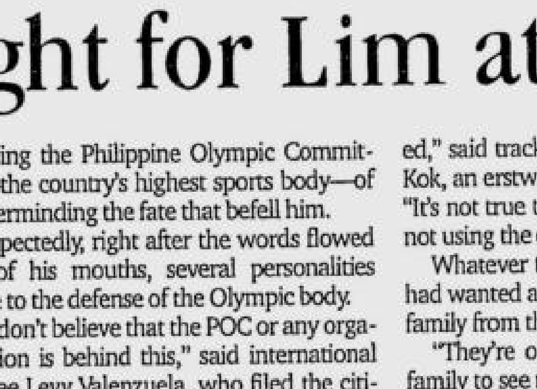
Anybody who can beat the PDA will be given a P1,000 incentive by Tee aside from the allotted cash prizes bankrolled by newly elected National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay, who arrived late Friday night from Shanghai, China.

Pichay will grace the opening ceremonies of the one-day active (30 minutes each) event staking P8,000 to the champion.

The 7-round Swiss System event is designed to give training and tune-up games to possible members of the Philippine team to the 2006 Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy, from May 19-June 5.

Expected to compete are GMs Mark Paragua, Eugene Torre and Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr.

Other entries are IMs Ronald Dableo, Richard Bitoon, Darwin Laylo, Barlo Nadera, Oliver Dimakiling, Chito Garma, Petronio Roca, Ronald Bancod, Idelfonso Datu and Rudy Cardoso, FMs Vince Alaan, FM Wesley So, Fernie Donguines, Jesse Noel Sales and Adrian Pacis. For details, call 0928-7132397. *NM Marlon Bernardino*



OKUDA raises arms in triumph.

Okuda rules cadet 60

FIL-JAPANESE. EUGENE OKUDA clinched the Cadet 60 Novice title recently in the kickoff of the 2006 Shell Helix Superkarting Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

The 10-year-old fourth grade student of International School-Manila was the fastest among seven kids in the class, clocking a best time of 54.630 in the ninth lap of the first heat.

Okuda got out of the tight fix against Jaco Reyes, Paby Garcia and Christian Gaddi in the early goings and pulled away in the last five laps for the big win.

"It was tough at the start," said Okuda. "But as soon as I got momentum, I knew that I'll win." said Okuda,

"It's a good start for this season. I know there will be a lot of pressures but I'll try to sustain it and hopefully win the overall title," added Okuda.

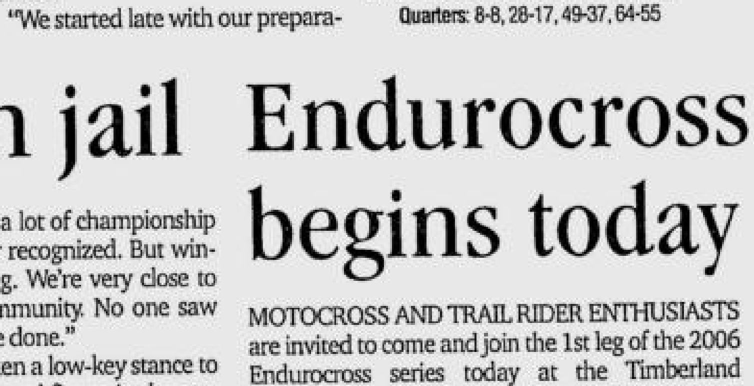
Marcelo does well in Formula 125

JEAN STEFANO MARCELO OF M&M KART RACing Team came up with a respectable finish in the premiere Formula 125 Open recently in the kickoff of the 2006 Shell Helix Superkarting Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

The youngest at 13 and only on his second year in the sport, Marcelo displayed maturity and consistency against the top guns in karting as he finished fourth behind champion Matteo Guidicelli, runner-up Daniel Cleak and third placer Marlon Stockinger, who all competed in the Senior 125 class last season.

Marcelo wrapped up the 20-lap race in 14:46.035 or just 6.160 seconds behind Guidicelli. Marcelo actually started 10th on the grid and finished six notches higher as he passed more experienced rivals Indy Villalon, Maico Angeles and Cebuano bets Jan Jan Gonzales and Jess Garcia one after another.

"It was quite tough considering it's my first time in the Formula 125 Open and had to deal with more experienced rivals," said Marcelo. "But I'm very much satisfied with my performance and hopefully achieve a better finish in the next race."



MARCELO among the best at 13.

DAR Chess Challenge starts

THE 3RD EDITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF Agrarian Reform Secretary Chess Challenge gets going today at the HRD Center of DAR, Elliptical Road, Quezon City.

Organized by the DAR Employees Chess Club in honor of DAR Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman, the NCFP-sanctioned, seven-round, Swiss System tournament is open to all untitled players with an NCFP rating of 2050-below.

The tournament offers a cash prize of P15,000, with the champion getting P5,000. For details, call 0918-5185152 or 0921-621-9898.

RACING TIPS

Race 1—(Ori/Tri)—Speed Adventure (3). Last Harm (5). Harmage (6). Ahoy My Boy (7)
Race 2—(Ori/Tri)—Candu (4). Batang Westside (6). Magpakailanman (1). Queen Banana (5)
Race 3—(Ori/Tri)—Diamond Sky (3). Best Of Ocean (7). St Emilion (2). Cunning Eagle (8)
Race 4—(Penta/Ori/Tri)—King Anthony (4). Strong Will (2) Long Gold (10). Tennessee (1). Shadow Quest (11)
Race 5—(Ori/Tri)—Manila's Style (6). Apple Splash (4). King's Choice (7). Andorra (1)
Race 6—(Penta/Ori/Tri)—Business Class (3) Gundam (7) Masuado (4). Selosa (6). Olive Oyl (5)
Race 7—(Ori/Tri)—Status (5). California Lady (8) Pine Needles (1). Ever More Now (4)
Race 8—(Penta/Ori/Tri)—Il Amorosa (1). Dashing (3). My Rabbonnie (14). Going Strike (11) Reason To Believe (2)
Race 9—(Penta/Ori/Tri)—Five O'Clock (10). Mercurian (2). Native Prince (9). Dona Gelay (3). Take A Strike (5)
Race 10—(Penta/Ori/Tri)—Golden Touch (1). Truly Impressive (8). Jaw Breaker (6) Hurry Prince (5). Dalmera/Garbo's Fancy (3)
Race 11—(Penta/Ori/Tri)—Dr Gagay (4) Reporter (2) Speed King (11). Time Deposit (10) Mis Quo Nada (9)
Race 12—(Penta/Ori/Tri)—Mountain Eagle (5) Flying Strike (8). Checklet (9). Honoree (6) Expediter (3)
Race 13—(Super 6/Ori/Tri)—Reign of Fire (14). Mary Jane Bomb (11). El Cid (1) Brazen Truth (6) Carolina Belle (7). Basta't Ikaw (3)

Distracted Tiger fires 69, trails by 5 shots

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA—TIGER Woods moved into contention with a three-under-par 69 in the Players Championship second round on Friday, despite growing concern over his father's failing health.

The world No. 1, who had considered pulling out of the tournament earlier in the week, birdied four of his first seven holes before finishing at three-under 141.

WOODS REUTERS

Woods was in danger of bogeying his final hole, the par-five ninth, after finding water off the tee but chipped in from 30 feet from behind the green for a par five.

That left him five strokes behind leader Jim Furyk, who returned a 71 in the more blustery conditions of the afternoon.

"I felt like I hit the ball better than the score indicates because I missed a couple of short putts," Woods said. "I had a three-putt on 17 and then missed two short ones on seven and eight for birdie. I just felt I left a couple of shots out there.

"But the conditions are getting tough. The wind is swirling in the trees, the rough is up and the greens are drying out. Three under par is right there."

Needing a flying start on another overcast morning at the TPC at Sawgrass after battling to a first-round 72, Woods delivered.

The 2001 champion sank a 17-footer to birdie his first hole, the par-four 10th, and picked up another shot at the par-five 11th.

Despite pushing his drive well right at the par-four 14th, he hit a superb iron from the rough to within 14 feet of the flag and made the putt.

The 10-time major winner, whose father Earl, has been battling prostate cancer since 1998, got to four under after reaching the green in two at the par-five 16th and two-putting.

However, Woods lost ground with bogeys on the next two holes which are considered the most difficult on the par-72 Stadium Course.

He three-putted at the treacherous par-three 17th, before throwing his ball into the water off the island green, and found the right rough with his drive and his second shot at the water-lined, par-four 18th.

Reuters

Steady Furyk storms to Players lead

Love crashes out with 83

FURYK: Alone on top. AFP

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA—JIM FURYK climbed alone atop leaderboard Friday at the Players Championship while first-round co-leader Davis Love III was 18 shots worse than his opening round and entered the US PGA Tour record books as the only player in the history of the event go from first to the weekend off.

Love took a quadruple-bogey 9 on his final hole for an 11-over 83, missing the cut by four shots.

Furyk took the second-round lead by himself with a 1-under 71 to build a one-shot advantage over Adam Scott and Stephen Ames.

Love fell apart with a tee shot that landed behind a tree on the par-5 ninth, took three shots from 114 yards to reach the green, and then three putts from 15 feet.

"It was one of those days," Love told a media official after declining to speak to reporters. "When I hit a bad shot, I never got away with it."

Love, trying to become the first three-time winner on the TPC at Sawgrass, opened with a 65 Thursday and had four straight pars to start his second round. But starting with a double bogey on No. 14, he dropped 11 shots over the final 14 holes to join a dubious list of first-to-worst.

The last player who went from the top of the leaderboard to a weekend off was Brian Kortan (65-79) in the 2004 US Bank Championship in Milwaukee. Others were Trevor Immelman in the 2003 Bay Hill Invitational, and Kirk Triplett in the 2001 Nissan Open.

Perhaps the most famous—until Friday—was Rod Pampling at Carnoustie in the 1999 British Open.

"You can't say all that much," said Furyk, who played the first two days with Love. "We've all been in that position, and I know personally I'd just kind of want to be left alone. Davis had a rough day, and didn't shoot anywhere near the score he could have. He's not that far off."

Furyk, who was at 8-under 136, is not that far away from everyone else chasing him in the tour's richest event.

Ames, the runner-up in 2002 who lost to Craig Perks' eagle-birdie-par finish, had a 66 for the low round at the Stadium Course. Scott birdied his last two holes for a 67. Among those two shots behind were Vijay Singh (70) and Sergio Garcia (68). *AP*

Fed Leagues nears semifinal phase

Standings (Win-Loss-Draw-Points)

Group I: Wack Wack 8-0-0-18, Highlands 4-2-1-11, Southwoods 2-5-0-5, Orchard 2-5-1-5, Northwoods 2-6-0-4

Group II: Riviera 3-2-1-9, Alabang 2-1-3-7, Forest 2-3-1-6, Sta. Elena 2-3-1-5

WACK WACK AND RIVIERA clinched outright semifinals berth after topping their respective divisions in the eliminations of the Ladies Federation League.

Wack Wack completed a sweep of its eight matches in Group I to finish with 18 points while Riviera took the top spot in Group II with 9 points on three wins, two losses and a draw.

Defending champion Tagaytay Highlands, Alabang and Forest Hills are also assured of quarterfinal berths while Southwoods and Orchard are battling it out for the last slot.

Orchard's only hope, however, is for Southwoods to lose by a margin of at least 2.5 points in its final elims game against Highlands on Tuesday.

Wack Wack and Riviera will now have to wait for the results of the quarterfinal pairings that will feature Highlands, as the third seed, against the No. 6 seed and the fourth seed versus the fifth seed.

Sta. Elena, last year's finalist, lost a chance to earn a tie for the last slot when it managed just a draw against Alabang and was eliminated like Royal Northwoods.

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JAGUAR-Land Rover Phils President and CEO Wellington Soong (center) awards the champions of the Jaguar/Land Rover Golf Invitational last March 15-17 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club. The winners were Severino Oliva (left) and Francisco Meroy (right).

Former boxer gets jail time

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA—FORMER heavyweight boxer Clifford Etienne, who learned the sport while serving a prison sentence, has been convicted of an Aug. 10 crime spree that included robbery and an attempt to shoot two police officers.

In 2001, Etienne signed a multifight deal with US cable television channel Showtime worth $1 million, but his career plummeted, largely coming to an end with a 49-second first-round loss to Mike Tyson in February 2003.

Late Thursday, a state district court jury rejected defense claims that Etienne did not know what he was doing because he was high on drugs and suffering from brain injuries sustained from boxing.

Authorities said Etienne fired a shot and forced his way into a check cashing business and took more than $1,900 on Aug. 10. He tried to hijack one car with two children inside and hijacked another with two children inside before wrecking the second vehicle and being caught by police.

Police said Etienne tried to fire at police and one of the drivers, but the gun jammed both times.

Etienne was convicted of two counts of armed robbery, attempted carjacking, two counts of second-degree kidnapping, attempted second-degree murder and two counts of attempted manslaughter. Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns said Etienne faces at least 64 years in prison.

He is scheduled to be sentenced June 22.

Etienne, a former high school gridiron star, was paroled in 1998 after serving half of a 20-year attempted armed robbery sentence and became a professional boxer. *AP*

Pasa authors new swim guidelines

THE PHILIPPINE AMATEUR Swimming Association (Pasa) will be implementing guidelines and programs this year to improve the sport in the country.

A strengthened membership base will be launched to make all those involved in the sport campaign under the Pasa banner and make all tournaments conform to national and international standards.

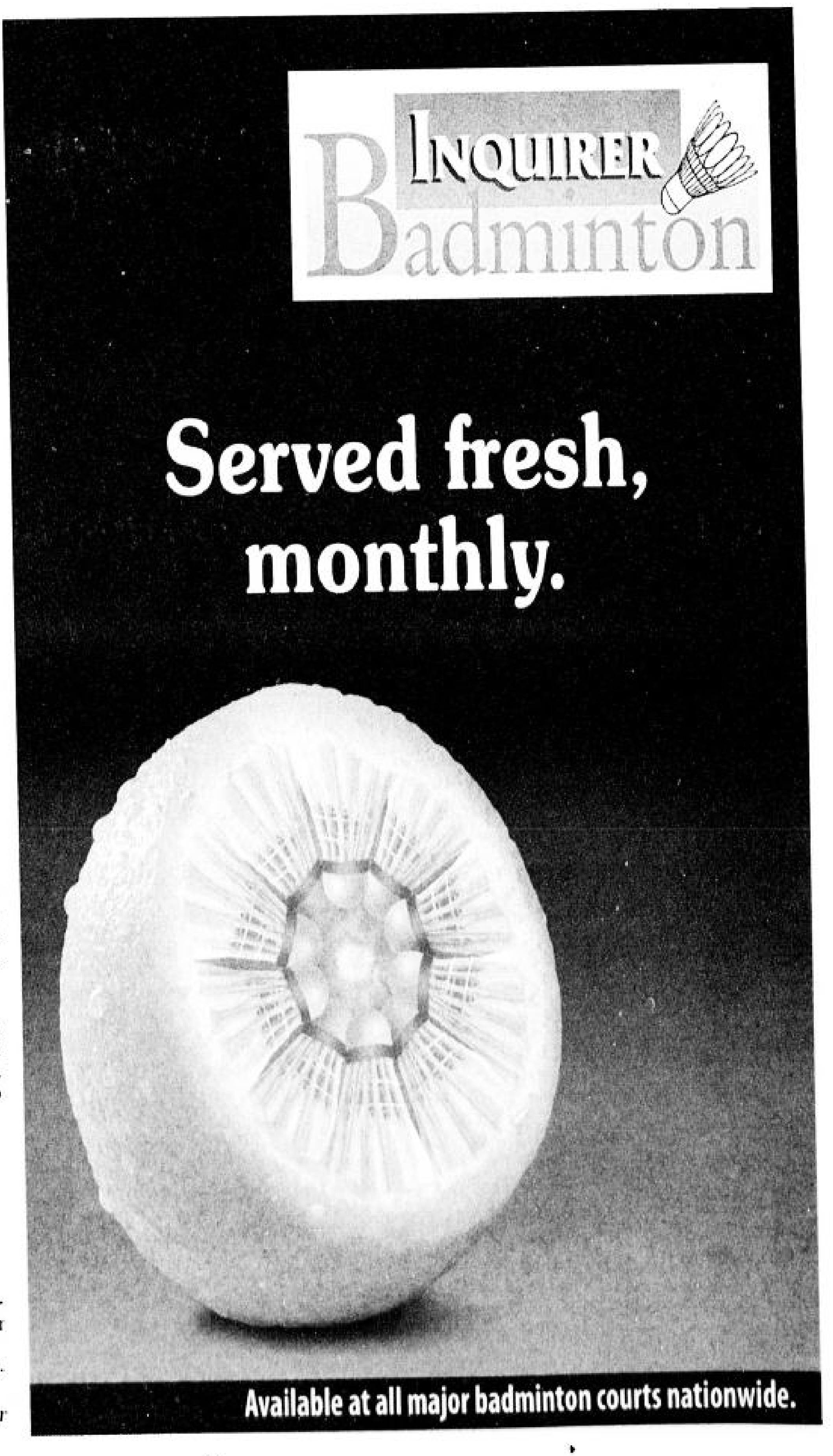
All local and national meets will also have to be sanctioned by the country's swim body, which, in turn, will lend all technical support necessary to these tournaments.

Mark Joseph, Pasa president, and former national swimmers Akiko Thomson, Ral Rosario and Pinky Brosas are spearheading these moves as they aim to give Pasa an expanded role in helping develop the sport.

Swimming won a total of nine gold medals in last year's Southeast Asian Games, becoming one of the heavy contributors in the Philippines' first overall victory in the biennial event.

Pasa will also work on the education and certification of all local swim coaches and instructors to be able to upgrade the quality of coaching in the Philippines.

"We want to develop a core group of professional swimming coaches as part of Pasa's overall program for Philippine swimming," said Joseph.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Paragua: Seedings not fair

PARAGUA

GRANDMASTER MARK PARAGUA YESTERday decried plans to seed the country's top three GMs to the national team that will compete in the 37th World Chess Olympiad in May.

Instead, he urged national chess officials to hold an elimination tournament to determine the composition of the RP team.

Paragua, the first Filipino to breach the 2600 Elo rating, said the move by the newly elected board of directors of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) would kill the chances of aspiring players.

"All those deserving to compete in the elimination must be given equal chances to be a member of the RP to the 2006 World Chess Olympiad," said the 21-year-old GM. "If a player is truly qualified, he would make it even if he's not seeded.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

With World Classic over, eyes now on White Sox

NEW YORK—NOW THAT BASEBALL HAS a true world champion for the first time, it's time for the Chicago White Sox to defend their World Series title.

Japan's victory in the World Baseball Classic punctuated the most unusual American spring training season in a decade, one in which star players left their clubs to join national teams even while much of the focus remained on Barry Bonds and his alleged steroid use.

But it will be back to business as usual starting April 2, when Cleveland plays Chicago in the Major League Baseball opener.

Well, not quite business as usual. The White Sox haven't defended a World Series title since 1918, when they dropped to sixth place a year after beating the New York Giants for the crown.

"I told them 2005 is over, and we're going to be a target to everyone in baseball," manager Ozzie Guillen said.

Boston knows how the White Sox feel. After winning in 2004 for their first title in 86 years, the Red Sox had visions of repeating heading into last year. But injuries to Curt Schilling and Keith Foulke caused Boston to struggle, and the Red Sox were swept by Chicago in the first round of the playoffs.

Trying to make it two in a row, Chicago re-signed Paul Konerko, acquired Jim Thome from Philadelphia for Aaron Rowand, jettisoned an angry Frank Thomas and obtained Javier Vazquez from Arizona.

After falling short, Boston spent the first part of the offseason trying to figure out if general manager Theo Epstein would stay (he left, then returned 2 1/2 months later). When the on-field shuffling was done, the Red Sox got 2003 World Series MVP Josh Beckett from Florida's dispersal, brought in Coco Crisp to replace center fielder Johnny Damon and remade its infield by adding second baseman Mark Loretta, shortstop Alex Gonzalez and third baseman Mike Lowell.

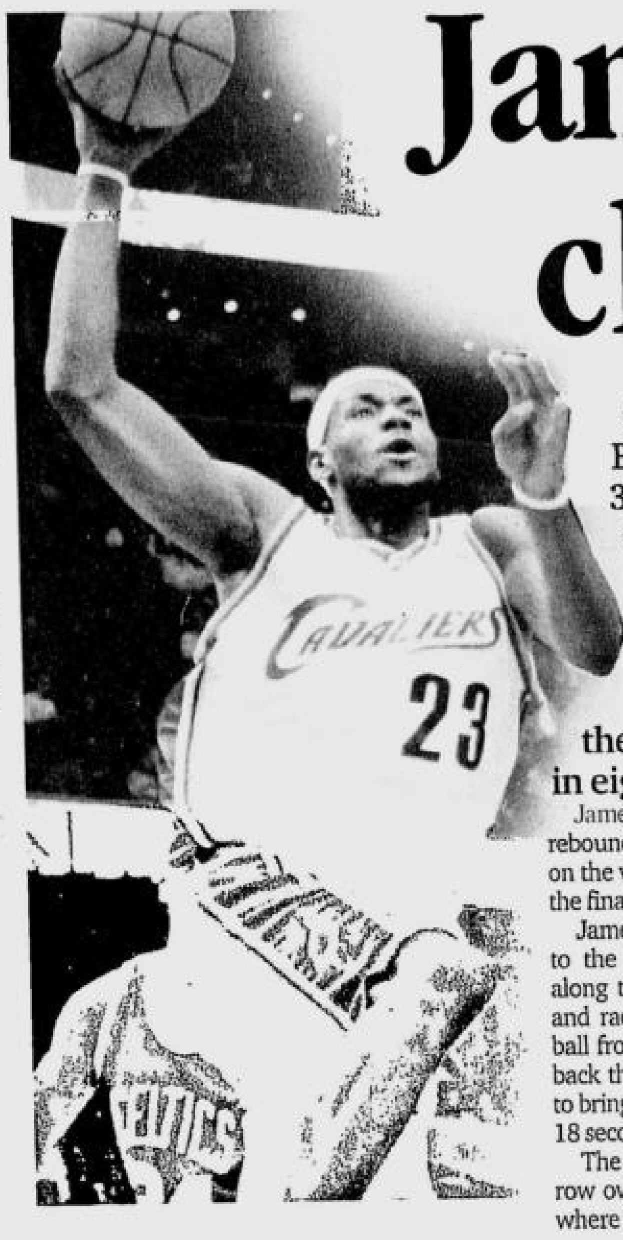
"I'm not worried," said Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield, entering his 12th season with Boston. "They're all professionals, regardless of where they came from."

Adding Damon was the biggest move by the Yankees, who head into the season once again with an old pitching staff that seems destined for the disabled list. Randy Johnson, Mike Mussina, Chien-Ming Wang, Carl Pavano and Jaret Wright all had health issues last season, and Pavano and Wright already have ached this year.

Home runs are what fans await from Bonds, who missed all but the final three weeks of last season because of a knee injury. He hit five homers last year, boosting his total to 708. The 41-year-old outfielder trails only Babe Ruth (714) and Hank Aaron (755) and isn't sure whether he'll stick around for 2007, even if he hasn't broken Aaron's MLB career record.

"I've played a long time," Bonds said. "I've had a lot of fun doing it. We'll tackle that bridge when it happens. I'll sit back and talk with my family and take a long, long vacation and see how I feel. I could do that and get in the wintertime and say, 'That's enough,' and somewhere in January wake up and say, 'That's not enough.'"

Bonds has refused to respond to accusations in an recently released book that he used performance-enhancing drugs for at least five seasons beginning in 1998. *AP*



James pushes Cavs closer to playoffs

CLEVELAND—LEBron James scored 36 points to lead Cleveland to a 94-82 win over the Boston Celtics on Friday night, moving the Cavaliers closer to their first playoff berth in eight years.

James added eight assists and seven rebounds and put the finishing touches on the win with three sparkling plays in the final minute.

James scored on an off-balance drive to the basket that left him sprawled along the baseline, but quickly got up and raced down the court to steal the ball from Paul Pierce. He then dribbled back the other way and hit a 3-pointer to bring the sellout crowd to its feet with 18 seconds to play.

The Cavaliers won their fourth in a row overall and sixth straight at home, where they are 26-10.

Pierce scored 24 points to lead Boston, which has lost five of seven.

In other games, it was Detroit 75, Indiana 72; Toronto 97, Minnesota 77; Orlando 102, Philadelphia 86; Miami 114, Charlotte 93; Memphis 91, New York 75; Chicago 96, New Orleans 82; Denver 117, Seattle 104; San Antonio 98, Portland 79; LA Lakers 101, Milwaukee 96

In Miami, Dwyane Wade and Shaquille O'Neal combined for 46 points before sitting out the fourth quarter, and the Heat beat Charlotte to snap a two-game losing streak.

Wade had 24 points on 9-of-13 shooting, along with eight assists and five rebounds. O'Neal had 22 points and nine rebounds in only 26 minutes for the Heat, who shot 58 percent from the field and finished off a four-game season sweep of the Bobcats.

The win gave Miami (46-23) a six-game lead over New Jersey (39-28) in the race for the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Raymond Felton had 11 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and Brevin Knight had 17 points and six assists for Charlotte, which lost for the 19th time in its last 21 road games.

In Philadelphia, Dwight Howard had 15 points, 19 rebounds and four blocks to help Orlando snap a 16-game road losing streak.

Orlando hadn't won away from home since its last trip to Philadelphia—a 119-115 overtime victory over the Sixers on Jan. 26.

Jameer Nelson scored 19 points and led seven Orlando players in double figures.

Chris Webber led the Sixers with 23 points and 15 rebounds, but missed eight straight shots in one stretch during the first half.

In Indianapolis, Ben Wallace blocked Danny Granger's 3-pointer at the buzzer and Detroit held off the Pacers.

Richard Hamilton scored 15 points and Antonio McDyess and Tayshaun Prince each added 11 for Detroit, which extended its winning streak to four games. *AP*

- **NBA on TV**

SOLAR SPORTS—Sacramento vs Utah (1 p.m. live, 7 p.m. replay)

RPN-9—Denver Phoenix (9 p.m.)

MARTINA Hingis pumps her fist in celebration after disposing of Sun Tiantian. AP

Moya ousts pal Nadal; Mauresmo advances

KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA—MENTOR CARLOS Moya gave protégé Rafael Nadal another lesson Friday.

Overcoming a slow start, Moya won the matchup of close friends from Mallorca, 2-6, 6-1, 6-1, in the second round of the Nasdaq-100 Open.

"The fact that we know each other very well is better for the one who has a lower ranking," Moya said. "In this case, it's me."

Moya, ranked 35th and unseeded, has provided guidance for Nadal and served as a role model during the precocious youngster's rise in the rankings to No. 2. The upset ended a streak of 22 consecutive wins for Nadal against his Spanish compatriots.

"For sure I didn't play 100 percent," said Nadal, slowed by a lingering ankle injury.

The elimination of last year's runner-up opens up the half of the draw already missing six-time champion Andre Agassi. The No. 10-seeded Agassi withdrew before his opening match because of chronic back trouble.

Third-seeded David Nalbandian committed 80 unforced errors but overcame two match points, winning both with drop shots, and beat Paul Goldstein, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (2).

No. 3 Justine Henin-Hardenne was the first seeded woman to depart. Meghann Shaughnessy upset the Belgian, 7-5, 6-4.

No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo, a semifinalist last year, needed only 44 minutes to eliminate Samantha Stosur, 6-0, 6-0.

No. 24 Martina Hingis earned the latest win in her comeback from a three-year layoff, beating qualifier Tian Tian Sun, 6-3, 6-2. *AP*

Villanova, Connecticut make NCAA 'Elite Eight'

WASHINGTON—TOP SEEDS VILLANOVA AND Connecticut emerged victorious from overtime battles to reach the final eight of the NCAA Tournament on Friday.

Villanova squeezed past Boston College 60-59 and Connecticut overcame Washington 98-92 in a pair of round of 16 thrillers in North America's annual college basketball showpiece event.

Will Sheridan clinched the victory for Villanova when Boston College's Sean Williams was called for goaltending as he swatted away the forward's shot with three seconds remaining in overtime at Minneapolis.

Sheridan's contribution capped a fine comeback from Villanova (28-4), who roared back from a 16-point first-half deficit to claim the physical contest.

Randy Foye led the Wildcats with 29 points. Craig Smith topped fourth-seeded Boston College (28-8) with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

"It was a great ballgame," said Foye, who scored Villanova's last six points in regulation, then sank a key triple early in the overtime.

The shorter Wildcats employed quickness and defense to counter the more-physical Eagles.

"We knew they were much bigger than us, so the defensive plan was to attack and blitz them when Craig Smith had the ball to make other guys make plays," Foye, the Big East Conference player of the year, told reporters.

Still, Smith almost ruined Villanova's plans, scoring with 12 seconds to play to give Boston College a 59-58 lead.

Connecticut needed a minor miracle to send the game with Washington into overtime and received one when Rashad Anderson hit a 26-foot three-pointer with 1.8 seconds left in regulation to knot the score at 82-82 in the Washington regional game.

Connecticut never trailed in the extra session, as a lay-up by Marcus Williams and two foul shots by Hilton Armstrong pushed the Huskies' lead to 94-89 with 24.4 seconds left, keeping alive their hopes of a second national title in three years.

Williams paced Connecticut in scoring with 26 points and Anderson added 19. Jamaal Williams scored 27 for Washington (26-7) on 12-of-22 shooting, with Brandon Roy adding 20.

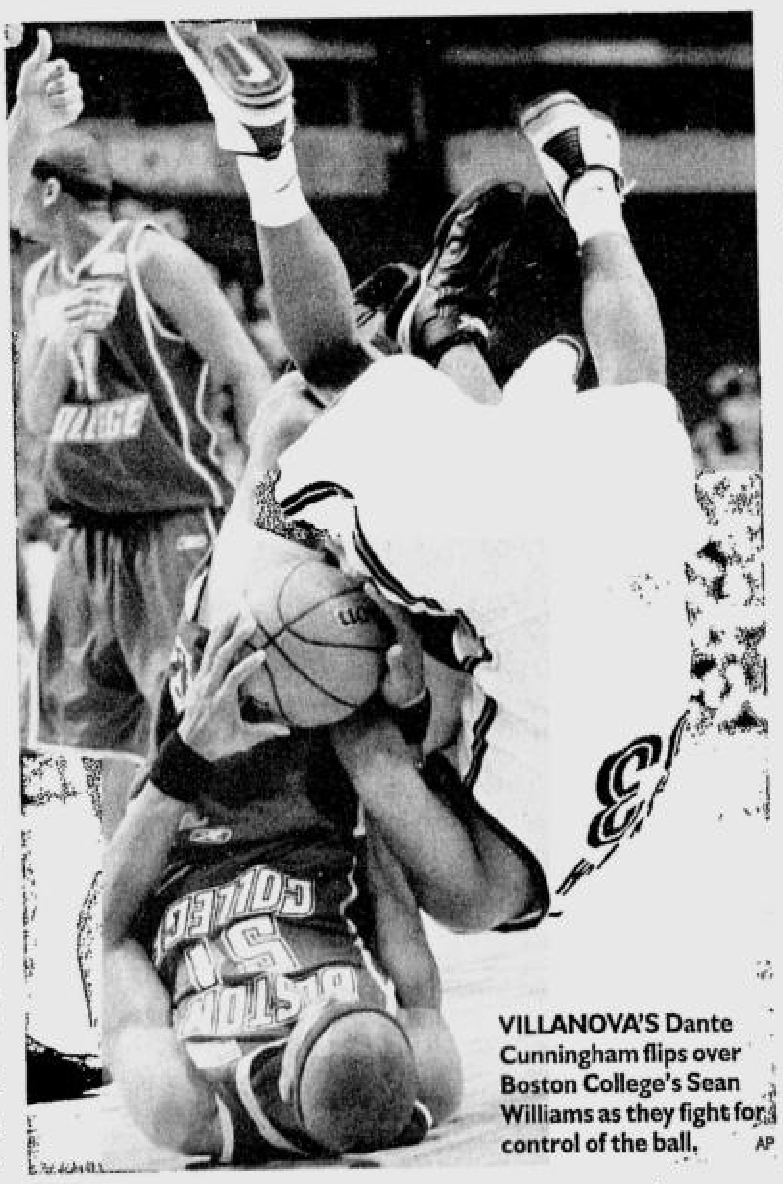
Connecticut (30-3) will play upstart George Mason (26-7) for the Washington regional title on Sunday after the number 11 seed continued their unlikely run with a 63-55 win over number seven seed Wichita State, led by Folarin Campbell's 16 points.

Villanova will meet Florida (30-6) for the Minneapolis regional championship on the same day.

The Gators edged Georgetown 57-53 on Corey Brewer's three-pointer with 27 seconds remaining. Joakim Noah led third-seeded Florida (30-6) with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Jeff Green topped Georgetown (23-10) with 15 points.

The NCAA championship game will be played April 3 in Indianapolis. *Reuters*



VILLANOVA'S Dante Cunningham flips over Boston College's Sean Williams as they fight for control of the ball. AP

GOLDEN BULL

Red Bull team manager Tony Chua, who is also the executive vice president of the Philippine Football Federation, receives his trophy as one of the distinguished alumni of Letran College during its Colegio Awards at the school's auditorium recently. Chue received his award from Letran president and rector, Fr. Edwin Lao (right) and vice rector Fr. Roger Estorque.

RP climbers ready to reach for the sky

By Jasmine W. Payo

LITERALLY, THERE'S NO WAY but up for the country's best mountaineers.

Cited for their impressive stamina and technical knowledge, Leo Oracion and Erwin "Pastor" Emata have been appointed to lead a seven-member, all-Filipino crew who will scale Mt. Everest on May 2007.

"They are in peak physical condition," said Art Valdez, expedition leader of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition Team, in a press conference at the National Sports Grill yesterday. "We are confident that they will be ready for Everest."

Oracion and Emata have been honing their skills in Nagar Kot, a high-altitude training destination in Nepal, for the past month.

The two veteran climbers will continue training in Island Peak, before meeting with the rest of Filipino climbers and support team at the base camp of Mt. Everest this April.

"It's a progressive training program," said expedition team member Regie Pablo. "We train in stages."

Training to climb the world's most famous and highest peak has been tough for the Filipino crew.

Not used to to the alpine environment, members have suffered frostbites and other illnesses when they scaled some of the world's punishing mountains, including Mt. Muztagh Ata along the Pakistan-China border in August 2005.

"This is why we're taking precautions by sending Leo and Pastor first this summer," said Valdez. "This reconnaissance climb will give them enough experience to help lead the whole team in 2007."

Although only seven climbers will scale Everest, the expedition team is 16-strong, with the rest of the squad serving as support crew.

The seven climbers will be split into two groups and climb from different points at Mt. Everest.

THE MEMBERS of the RP Mt. Everest expedition squad gather around Lucio Tan (center), who lent his support to the group's bid.

National coaches start exodus to Keon's camp

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NATIONAL COACHES ARE INdeed making an exodus, not only to foreign lands but also up north in Laoag City.

Led by four former multi-titled athletes, several Manila-based national coaches have chosen to impart their talents to the Ilocos Norte athletes under the stewardship of former Gintong Alay director and erstwhile national training chief Mike Keon.

Erlinda Lavandia, four time Southeast Asian Games champion, is now helping Ilocos Norte throwers hone their skills, leaving behind her coaching career in Manila under the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association.

The 54-year-old police chief superintendent said she finds satisfaction helping the athletes develop their talents in the dusty track oval in the capital city.

"No amount of money can repay what the country has given me," said Lavandia. "I also owe a lot to Mr. Keon and I believe in his dreams of making this region a force to reckon with in the national-level meets."

Ilocos Norte, which is considered a lightweight compared to other regions in the Palarong Pambansa, is hoping to make the big difference in next month's Palaro in Naga City.

Also lending their expertise is Nonoy Unso, who still holds the national record in low hurdles and is now teaching hurdles and jumping events.

Augusto Sta. Maria, dubbed as Mr. Volleyball during his Meralco days in the '70s, also banners the elite coaching staff now being dubbed as the "MMK (Michael Marcos Keon) Army" in answer to the "GTK Army" of Patafa boss Go Teng Kok.

Sta. Maria, who coached the national team until two years ago, even skipped the recent ceremony that put him in the national volleyball Hall of Fame because the regional athletes were by then preparing for the Ilocos Region Athletics Association meet.

Also included in the staff is Nestor Calip, who bade goodbye to the sepak takraw national team and transplanted himself in Laoag.

Former Asia's queen of sprints Lydia de Vega heads prominent athletes who have sought greener pastures abroad.

De Vega is reportedly on a coaching job in Singapore, while Philippine basketball mentor David Zamar is now in Jakarta helping build up the Indonesian national team.

CAGE CLINIC: PBA'S Mr. 100 percent Norman Black conducted a mini cage clinic on opening day of Sportshouse Sportstacle at the Atrium of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City recently. Black, who was assisted by former PBA player and now UST assistant coach Rabbi Tomacruz, trains clinic participants.

SPORTSWATCH

Nat'l coaches join tennis camp

THE 2006 DUNLOP Tennis Camp will kick off next week in different venues all over Metro Manila and some provinces. RP Davis Cup team captain Martin Misa, RP junior team coaches Cris Cuarto and Totoy Alina, SEA Games veteran Jennifer Saret, former national junior standout Dino Jimenez and seasoned coaches Teng Flores and Willie Servillon are among the prominent names in the Dunlop coaching staff. The camp will be held in Mandaluyong, Makati, Quezon City, Alabang, Pasig, San Juan, Parañaque, Angeles City, Cavite, Lipa and San Pablo City. Contact 893-2727 for details.

Light-fly bout in Fistorama

FISTORAMA features this afternoon an eight-round bout in the light-flyweight division between Denver Cuello and Abdul Simo. Fistorama is shown twice weekly through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. Fistorama, supported by Tanduay, PCSO, Hope and Mapecon, is aired nationwide starting at 3:30 p.m. Sundays on RPN-9. Golf Power Plus, supported by PCSO, Tanduay and Samsung, airs at 3 p.m. featuring Adamson U Team 3 against College of St. Benilde Team 2 in the 1st Samsung Inter-Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge.

BADMINTON TILT: JVC (PHILS.) Inc. president and COO Hideyuki Takato (second from left) and PBA president and former First Lady Amelita Ramos (fourth from left) lead the hitting of the ceremonial serves for the JVC Open Junior Badminton Championships at SM Megamall. From left are Kazue Salud, JVC (Phils.) Inc. general manager, PBA vice president Edgar Aglipay, JVC (Phils.) Inc. officials Dennis Salud and lawyer Faustino Salud and SM Supermalls' Robert Decena.

SJC Fastest Win set April 3

CONFIRMED entries are starting to swell in connection with San Juan Coliseum's surefire promotion, the Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan on April 3 with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as main backer. According to host Aba Badiola, a guaranteed prize of P574,000 will be given to the winners regardless of the actual number of entries. Entry fee is P2, 200. The fastest win champion will get a Honda XRM motorcycle plus P50, 000; second to fifth placers, one Honda XRM motorcycle each. Valuable prizes also awaits sixth to 30th placers. eanwhile, a special 3- cock derby is set at SJC on Monday with P200,000 in guaranteed prizes. Entry fee is P5,500. For details, call 0917 - 8264018 (Aubrey), 7256563 and 7255369.

Roligon derby dangles P2M pot

AFTER presenting two smashing derbies at the onset of 2006, promoter Rolly Ligon unleashes another rich cockfest at Roligon Mega Cockpit, billed as Tukaan 5-cock derby on April 29, May 2, 4 and 6. No less than P2 million is up for grabs, said Ligon. The fastest win champion will drive home a brand new Toyota Innova. Entry fee is P8,800. Held last February was the 429-entry Roligon Anniversary Derby, followed by the 360-entry Largahan 5-cock derby last week. Meanwhile, the EMB 4-cock derby on March 30, with engineer Eric Bugarin as host, dangles P400,000 for an entry fee of P7,700. For details, call 8512275, 8331638 and 8529812 (Jona).

NCA 7-cocker slates 50 fights

MORE than 50 fights await aficionados in the National Cockers Association 7-cock derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit on March 27 and 29. Derby hosts Boyet Joson and Ellan Nagano said they have invited cockers from Central Luzon, Metro Manila, Mindanao and other parts of the country to pit their entries against the "best of the best" of the NCA members. The host assured that the derby will be conducted in the fairest, most honest and most transparent manner that has characterized all NCA derbies.

Samsung Jungolf Tour blasts off at Malarayat Tuesday

THE SAMSUNG JUNGOLF SUMmer Tour fires off next week with the Jungolf Interclub competitions at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas, and Riviera Sports & Country Club in Silang, Cavite, on March 28-30.

One hundred forty kids coming from at least 20 clubs around the country are seeing action in the 54-hole tourney kicking off a tour of eight courses in the summer for players aged 17 years and below.

The first leg will also serve as the official qualifier for two slots to the Mastercard Junior Masters in Perth, Australia.

Samsung and Philippine Airlines are the main sponsors of the event organized by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines in coordination with the Federation of Golf Clubs in the Philippines.

The other sponsors are Callaway, Titleist, Mizuno, La Jolla, Taylor Made, Wilson, Ping, MCCI Air Liquid, Inquirer Golf and Michael Guy.

Players in Classes A, B, C and D will play at Mt. Malarayat while those in Classes E and F will be at Riviera.

The schedule includes March 28-30 Mt. Malarayat/Riviera; April 5-7 Camp John Hay; April 17-20 Manila Southwoods; April 24-27 Canlubang; May 1-4 Tat Filipinas; May 8-10 Villamor; May 15-19 Tagaytay Midlands; May 22-25 Orchard; May 29-31 Riviera.

Jungolf president Bang Mamaril said he expects the level of play in all age-groups to be high.

STRANGE FIGURE
Australia's Kimberly Mason performs her ball routine during the Commonwealth Games rhythmic gymnastics all-around final in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday.
AP

PBA holds 2nd golfest

THE PHILIPPINE BAR ASSOCIATION WILL hold its second PBA Golf Invitational Tournament on March 28 at the West Course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Tee-off time is at 8 a.m. Proceeds of the golfest will be used for the various projects of the PBA such as free legal aid to deserving indigents who cannot afford the services of lawyers and other public service activities of the organization. Major sponsors are GMA Network, Inc., Caltex (Philippines) Inc. and Pagcor. For inquiries, call Ms Beth Lipana at 8153080 or 8135631.

17th Mitsubishi qualifying round on today at RMTC

THE 17TH EDITION OF THE MITSUBISHI Lancer International Tennis Championships kick off today with the qualifying round starting at 9 a.m at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Six qualifiers in both boys and girls divisions will advance in the main draw which will start on Tuesday. Indian Sanam Singh and Ukraine's Khrystyna Antoniychuk are the top seeds in the boys' and girls' singles main draw offering 100 ITF Junior points to the singles champions.

Singh, currently No. 6 in the ITF Juniors rankings, reached the third round of this year's Australian Open Juniors. He won the Mitsubishi Lancer doubles title with compatriot Vivek Shokeen last year.

Other seeds in the boys' division are world's No. 16 Japanese Sho Aida, Taiwanese Lee Hsin-Han (19), Indian Jeevab Nedunchezhiyan (26), Australian James Lemke (31) Russian Artur Chernov (32), New Zealand's Austen Childs (41), Indian Rupesh Roy (48), Indonesian Faisal Aidil (49), Swiss Dylan Sessagesimi (56) and Fil-American Dennis Lajola (58).

Antoniychuk, on the other hand, won the singles and doubles titles in the 2005 Prince Cup in the USA.

Team Santos bags third straight ABL crown

TEAM SANTOS TROUNCED TEAM Racela, 58-49, recently to emerge champion in the Ouano Division of the Ateneo Basketball League for the third straight year. Team Santos is the brainchild of Cinderella's Richie Coronel Santos, (center, squatting). Other players were ex-pros Rainier Sison and Gec Chia Mon Tioseco, Sonny Tadeo, Paul Tanchi, Epok Quimpo, LA Mumar, Jean Alabanza, BJ Calo, Paolo Timbang, Poti Puno, Andrew Cruz, Marco Benitez, Eric Yao, JP Cabero and Jeric Hechanova, former De La Salle stars TY Tang and TJ Manotoc, 2005 Littaua Division MVP Terence Tang, 2005 Mayoralgo Division MVP Luigi Avanceña and 2006 Dalupan Division Best Defensive Player Marvin Sioco. The Team is managed by Tim Tan with assistance from Mike Muñoz, Jolly Diaz and Jay Cocjin. It is sponsored by Esprit, U2 and Seawind Resort Boracay.

The Ali holiday

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I FINALLY GOT TO READ JESS Saplala's book, "The 12 Greatest Rounds of Boxing," that he had mailed me a while back. Jess, of the famous Well Advertising, and I stood as godfathers in the wedding recently of Teddy and Christy Morales. The newlyweds are good friends of Ricky and Malaya Sadiwa.

Written by Ferdie Pacheco, Muhammad Ali's personal physician, the book contains the "Thrilla in Manila" on Oct. 1, 1975 at the Araneta Coliseum between Ali and Frazier. Excerpts of that follow:

"The greatest fight of the century was not considered much of a fight when it was made. It seemed like an 'oh, by the way' kind of promotion by Don King; an afterthought.

"King had found yet another country badly in need of a divertissement. He would provide it, in the form of a sporting event that would capture the world's interest while distracting the Filipino people's attention from the rebels in the country's mountains, the nation's sagging economy, and the humid heat of October. President Ferdinand Marcos would be grateful for the opportunity to host a happening featuring the charismatic world heavyweight champion, Muhammad Ali. For his part Ali was eager to get out of his own country. He sought escape for the oldest of reasons: love. Ali needed to escape the bonds of his marriage.

"In Africa the previous year Ali had met a gorgeous girl, Veronica Porche, and had fallen head over heels in love. The relationship grew increasingly serious in the ensuing months. Belinda, Ali's long-suffering wife and the mother of his children, seemed powerless to the affair. Ali was a man in lust.

"A fight in the Philippines would allow Ali to be alone with Veronica for at least six weeks. Belinda would be left behind to tend to the children. This was too good to pass up. Ali enthusiastically signed the contract.

'Joe Frazier's stock had fallen to a low point since beating Ali in their first fight, in 1971. In 1973 Frazier had entered the ring with George Foreman, who treated Smokin' Joe as his personal yo-yo, bouncing him off the canvas until he knocked him out in the second round. In a return match with Ali in Madison Square Garden in 1974, Joe had been beaten handily in losing a 12-round decision. Joe Frazier was on the skids.

"Muhammad Ali is a loving man. He cannot hold a grudge. He always treats former opponents with great warmth and affection, and he had an especially soft spot in his heart for Joe Frazier. His first encounter with Frazier had been one of the greatest fights in his career, even though he had lost the 15-round decision in a superb contest of wills. Now Ali, the victor in the '74 rematch, felt sorry for Frazier. He wanted to give him a going-away present. Frazier would come to the Philippines, take his beating, and go home with a truck load of retirement money. Ali and his people agreed it would be a decent thing to do for the man who had provided Ali such invaluable, high-profile exposure. In his singular way, Ali loved Frazier. Frazier forced him to fight at the top of his form.

"Says Angelo Dundee, 'Joe Frazier wasn't a safe opponent for anybody. Frazier on any given night could lick any given fighter because he was—he was for real. The only problem he had was that Muhammad Ali was around, and Muhammad Ali could always beat Joe Frazier.'

"In Frazier's corner there was no love lost for the opponent who proclaimed himself the Greatest. Joe Frazier truly despised Ali. Joe was a tough man from the mean streets of Philadelphia. His road to the top had been hard; his fights typically were brutal slugging matches. However tough, Frazier was an honorable man, a noble warrior who loved his family. Physically, he was the antithesis of Ali: short (a shade under six feet), heavily muscled, and frequently scowling. As such, he was the perfect foil for Ali, who loved to tease his opponents, often focusing his barbs on an aspect of their appearance. Frazier had a deep, glowing pride in who he was and what he had become. He saw nothing funny about his looks, but Ali did. Ali called him 'the Gorilla.'

"For Joe, this fight wasn't about money He took what was offered; there wasn't even a meaningful negotiation. Ali was guaranteed $4 million against 43 percen of all fight-generated income. Frazie would end up with half of Ali's eventua take of $6 million.

"Frazier requested accommodations fo 17 people in Manila. Ali said he needed plane tickets and lodging for 50, and by the time his full entourage had arrived in the Philippines, it numbered considerabl more than 50. You see, Joe Frazier was in Manila on business. Muhammad Ali was there on holiday."

The fight scheduled for 15 ended via TKO win for Ali when Frazier became too weak—he could barely see—to answer the bell for the 14th round in the most bruta bloodiest fight ever.

The fight dubbed as a mere holiday fo Ali ended up as the "Fight of the Century."

Ali also ended up divorcing Belinda an marrying Veronica.

* * *

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Valencia rips Iligan cagers

VALENCIA CITY—VALENCIA GOLDEN Harvest held Firefly Lightings-backed Iligan Crusaders to eight point in the final quarter to tally an 80-72 victory and assume solo southern division leadership in the 2006 National Basketball Conference (NBC) Friday night at the city gym here.

The Crusaders of Mayor Lawrence Cruz were virtually silenced in the last five minutes as Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia cagers improved their record to 2-0 in the grassroots-oriented tourney.

Trailing 60-64 at the start of the payoff period, Valencia unloaded a 20-8 bomb to shock the favored Crusaders.

Last year's NBC Rookie of the Year Eliazar Berami sparked Valencia's blistering finish by scoring six of his 13 points and pulling down six rebounds. He was named the game's best player.

With the score tied at 70 in the last 5:19, Julius Navales ignited a 10-0 blast to put the Golden Harvest comfortably ahead, 90-70.

The Crusaders failed to get a basket until the last 6.1 seconds, when Kim Gandara made a lay-up.

"Our defense was the key tonight," said Valencia coach Arvin Martinez. "We handcuffed their shooters early and pushed their big men out of their comfort zone."

Two Iligan recruits—ex-UST Tiger Derrick Hubalde and playmaker Marlon Kalaw—managed to score only six and 10 points, respectively. Dino Cabili led Valencia with 19 points.

Valencia goes for its third win against Gov. Manny Pinol's North Cotabato Braves at 7 p.m. today at the Braves' gym in Kidapawan.

The tournament is sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

The scores:

VALENCIA 80—Cabili 19, Cruz 18, Berami 13, Navales 10, Braga 10, Cesar 5, Celiz 4, Adams 1, Cummings 0, Arquero 0, Dumapig 0, Taligatos 0.

ILIGAN 72—Go 14, Gandarosa 11, Kalaw 10, Matias 10, Nicdao 9, Omiping 9, Hubalde 6, Taguines 2, Ayodelle 1, Sagad 0, Tajonera 0.

Quarters: 23-12, 39-36, 60-64, 80-72

PacMan's team wins

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—PACMAN-GENSAN silenced Pryce Pharma-Misamis Oriental in the last two minutes en route to a 73-68 triumph in the ML Kwarta Padala Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) First Conference Friday night at the Lagao Gym.

The win, Pacman-GenSan's fourth in six outings, enabled the team owned by local boxing icon Manny Pacquiao to gain second place.

Pryce Pharma, which dropped to 1-3, gave a good fight and even led 68-65 on a hook shot by strongman Jesse Lumantas with still three minutes left. That, however, turned out to be Pryce Pharma's last taste of the lead as PacMan stepped up on defense.

Jaypee Locsin, Apol Coronado and Dondon Tadena combined for eight points down the stretch for PacMan-GenSan.

Locsin topped PacMan with 19 points, including 15 in the second period, while Coronado and Tadena added 11 and 10, respectively.

Dondon Mendoza paced Pryce Pharma with 16, nine in the first period that saw Pryce on top, 21-17. Lumantas added 15 and Ramil Tagupa chipped in 11.

Backed by MVBA Chair Gov. Oscar Moreno, Pryce Pharma hopes to recover today as it travels to Davao City and play Montaña-Davao at the Almendras Gym starting at 5:30 p.m.

The scores:

PACMAN-GENSAN 73—Locsin 19, Coronado 11, Tadena 10, Farochilen 9, Medalla 9, Rubi 6, Cabanlit 4, Sandoval 4, Deligero 1, Madera 0, Recustodio 0, Jabagat 0.

PRYCE PHARMA-MISOR 68—Mendoza 16, Lumantas 15, Tagupa 11, Laygo 8, Alfeche 6, Numeran 4, Mercado 4, Redulosa 2, Saludsod 2, Trumpeta 0, Abacahin 0, Carretas 0.

Quarters: 17-21, 39-29, 52-52, 73-68.

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'Jewel' in Taguig

'Koreanovela' stars draw 25,000 fans

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE HUGE TURNOUT OF fans all wanting to get a glimpse of the stars of the phenomenally popular Korean drama "Jewel in the Palace," prompted Korean embassy officials to announce they would start "working on inviting" Filipino stars to visit Korea.

"We are also trying to get another Korean star to visit soon," said a statement sent by the embassy to INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday.

An estimated crowd of 25,000, according to the Taguig City Police, trooped to the activity area of Market! Market! on Thursday for a chance to meet actress Yang Mi Kyung and child star Jo Jung Eun.

The actors play Lady Han and little Janggeum, respectively, in GMA 7's top-rating soap series, "Jewel in the Palace."

In an exclusive interview with INQUIRER on Friday, Yang said (through an interpreter) that the role of Lady Han was offered to her by the director, Lee Byeong-hun, "probably because the Korean audience is already familiar with me, [after] having starred in more than 11 TV dramas."

Yang, 45, has appeared in the mini-series "Sunshine (Geu Haetsari Naege)" and "Stepmother (Saeeomma)," and won several awards, the most recent of which was the Outstanding Acting Award in 2003 from the Moonhaw Broadcasting Company (MBC).

In "Jewel in the Palace," Lady Han teaches cooking to female attendants in the royal kitchen. She is highly regarded by the palace staff for her cooking talents as well as for her kindness.

"I love to cook [in real life], just like Lady Han," Yang said. "But my skills pale in comparison to hers. And like Lady Han, I also try to always be kind and persevering."

She added: "'Jewel in the Palace' is really the story of Janggeum, who never gives up on her dreams. [It is about] rising after each fall. I hope that viewers who undergo difficult situations never lose hope, either."

The Korean actors left for Brunei on Friday after their three-day Manila visit. They paid a

JEWEL/ A2-2

YANG Mi Kyung or Lady Han

JO JUNG Eun or little Janggeum

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Annaliza S. Dispo
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Carlo M. Lubis
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Salvador Fernando
McDonald's Barangka
Katrina Monteallo
McDonald's Lepanto
Johoanna Tuberon
McDonald's SM North Edsa
Jaoule Bituin
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Ronaldo Ignacio
McDonald's Harrison Plaza
Carlo Loi Guinto
McDonald's SM North Edsa
Shirley Antoniano
McDonald's SM Sucat
Sharlene Santos
McDonald's UP Los Baños
Rosario Lazaro
McDonald's Sucat
Jordan Marasigan
McDonald's Tutuban Prime Block
Mary Ann Adelino
McDonald's Mendiola
Brian Abad
McDonald's People Support
Dominic Yap
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Joane Casuga
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Marc Conrado D. Genilo IV
McDonald's Tarlac
Charlyn Condes Cuizon
McDonald's Zamboanga City
Rhodora A. Manaois
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Ivy Rose B. Aranzo
McDonald's Naga City Plaza
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Jim Chester Galan
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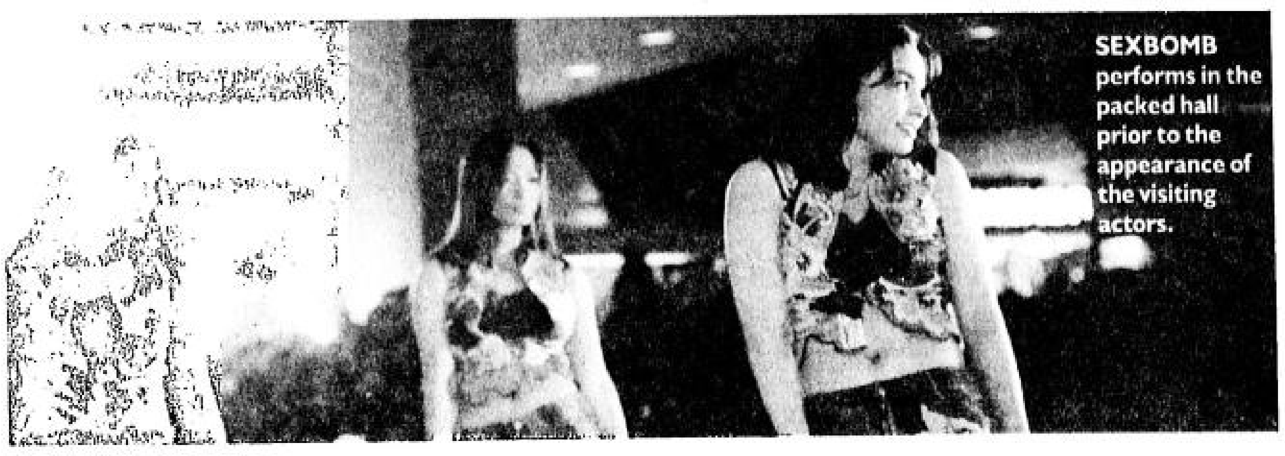
Coke Float Sprite Float Sarsi Float Strawberry Hot Fudge Strawberry Oreo Coffee Cappuccino
love ko 'to
Coke, Coca- of The Coca-Cola Company.
Promo runs from March 15 to April 15, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0388, Series of 2006.

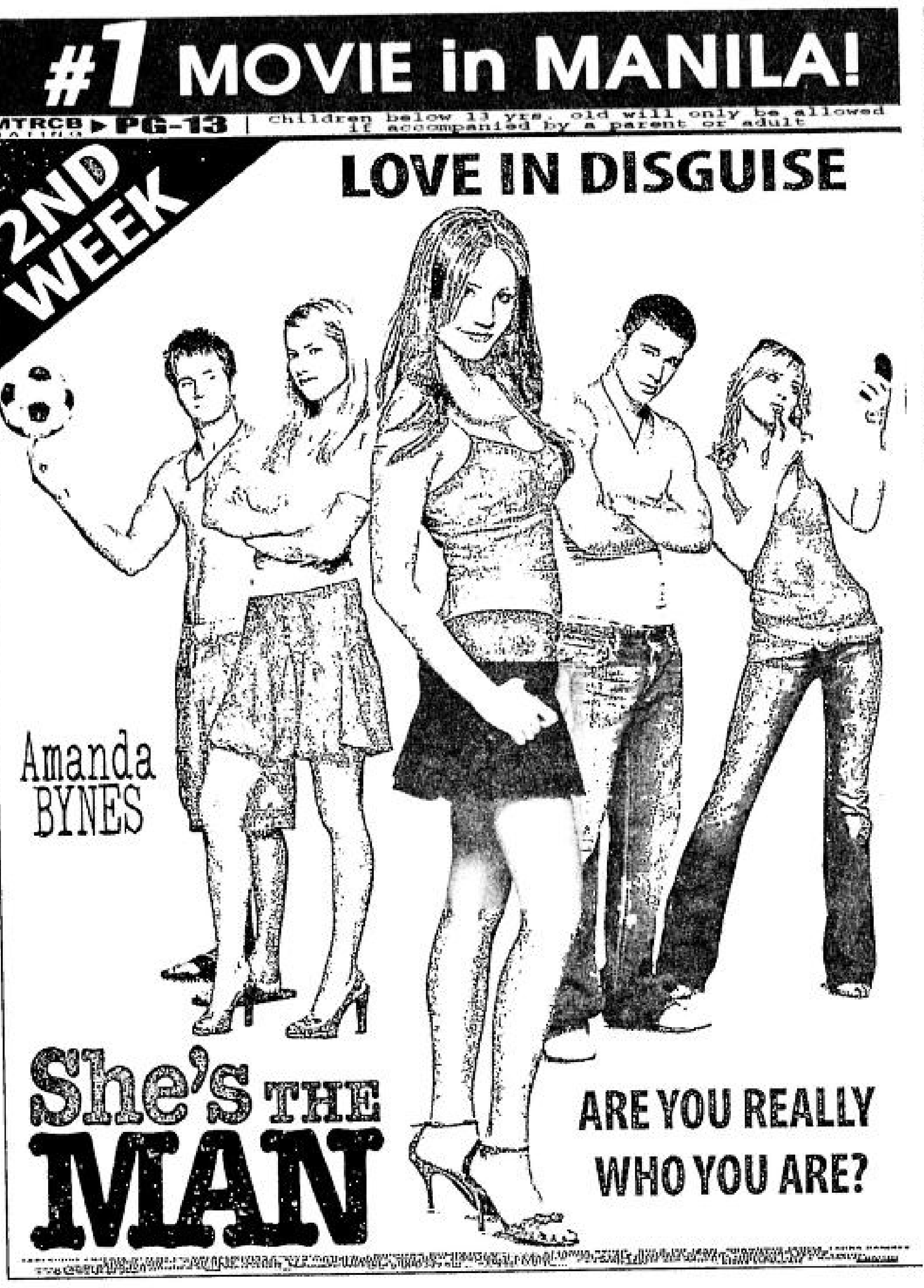
'Jewel' in Taguig


SEXBOMB performs in the packed hall prior to the appearance of the visiting actors.

NEXT ATRACTION

MOVE OVER ZORRO...
HERE COMES THE NEW HEROES OF THE POOR AND OPPRESSED

SALMA HAYEK
PENÉLOPE CRUZ
FEAR NO MAN
BANDIDAS


#1 MOVIE in MANILA!
MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13 | children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
2ND WEEK
LOVE IN DISGUISE
Amanda BYNES
She's THE MAN
ARE YOU REALLY WHO YOU ARE?

FAITH Cuneta sings the show's theme.

From page A2-1

courtesy call to the Department of Foreign Affairs, visited orphans at the Reception and Study Center in Quezon City and appeared in several GMA 7 programs.

Thursday's event—which kicked off a three-day Korean Food Festival—included a mini-concert that featured GMA 7 talents CJ Muere, Meagan Young, Sex Bomb Dancers, Jonalyn Viray, Shamrock Band and Faith Cuneta, who sang the show's theme song in Filipino, "Bituing Walang Ningning."

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls Lov'emall!

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 V FOR VENDETTA	2 ULTRAVIOLET	3 SHE'S THE MAN	4 GLORY ROAD
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 NANNY MCPHEE	2 SHE'S THE MAN	3 THX ULTRAVIOLET GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 HOSTEL	5 GLORY ROAD	6 NORTH COUNTRY	7 V FOR VENDETTA
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 ULTRAVIOLET	2 NORTH COUNTRY		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX ULTRAVIOLET GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX NORTH COUNTRY GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 GLORY ROAD GUARANTEED SEATS	4 V FOR VENDETTA GUARANTEED SEATS	5 NANNY MCPHEE GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC. ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX NORTH COUNTRY	2 NANNY MCPHEE		
	3 ULTRAVIOLET	4 SHE'S THE MAN	5 GLORY ROAD	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 CASANOVA	2 LAST HOLIDAY	3 FINAL DESTINATION 3	4 SYRIANA
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 ULTRAVIOLET	2 NORTH COUNTRY		
	3 GLORY ROAD	4 NANNY MCPHEE	5 SHE'S THE MAN	

At the Activity Center

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Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
BPI Installment Madness March 15 to 31, 2006	Anson's Emporium Exhibit March 12 to 31, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Gopher Wood Learning Center's 3rd Recognition Day & Culminating Activities March 27, 2006	Sunsilk Hair Talk Party March 26, 2006

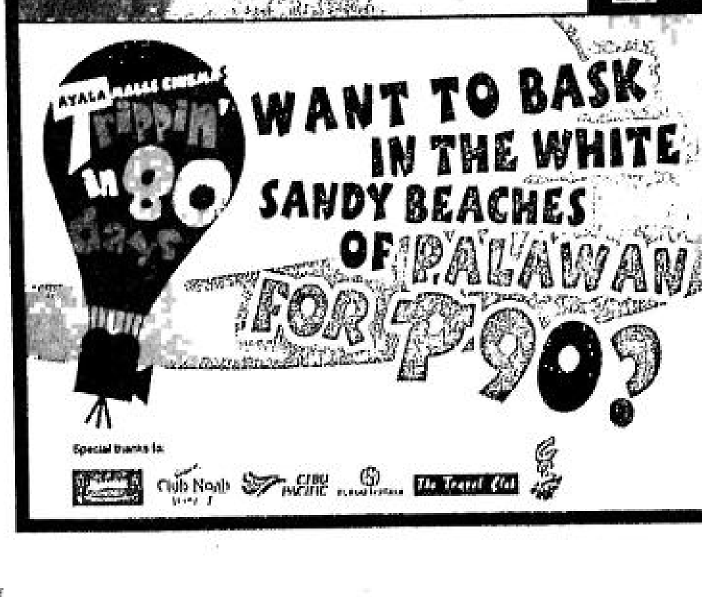
GREENBELT
Ayala Museum Summer Workshop Sampler
April 1, 2006 - Greenbelt 3 Park

Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents 7 NG UMAGA
at REP's Globe Theater - March 24, 25, 26, 31, April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Registration is now ongoing for Ayala Museum's
Summer Art Festival Workshop 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES

Mornings aren't so sunny at
7 Ng Umaga
a comedy by Paul Osborn,
directed by Baby Barredo
March 24-26, 31, April 1-2, 7-9, 2006
Rep's Globe Theatre at Onstage, Greenbelt 1
Call 887-0710 or 891-9999 (Ticketworld)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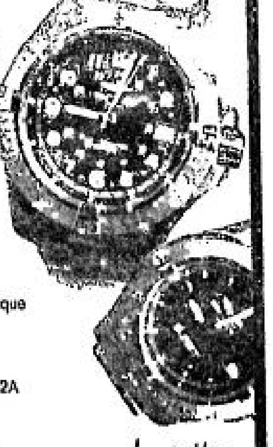
Promo ends on May 19, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AI-200, Series of 2006

Special thanks to: Club Noah Cebu Pacific The Travel Club

glorietta Greenbelt Ayala Malls



Lov'emall This Valentines PROMO WINNERS

GRAND PRIZE:
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His Model: Colt Quartz 306
Her Model: Colt Oceane 310

WINNER:
ALMA M. ABANTO
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Tunasan Muntinlupa City

	GLORIETTA AND GREENBELT	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Major Prize Raymond Weil His and Hers Watch His Model: 5568 MC 00308 Her Model: 5308 P00107 / 5308 MC 10200	WINNER: FELBERT N. PADILLA 76B K6, Kamias, Quezon City	WINNER: VERN MADAMBA 11 F. Cruz Street, BF Homes Parañaque
Minor Prizes Lacoste His and Hers Watch His Model: 3510G63 Her Model: 3510L63	WINNERS: LEILA D. SOLIMAN 233 Knoll Drive, Makati South Hills, Parañaque City	WINNERS: MA. LIZABETTE M. VILLAR Blk 8 Lot20 Pearl St., Pacita II Phase2A San Pedro Laguna
Lacoste His & Hers Watch His Model: 6800G31 Her Model: 6800L31	MEI SHAN C. LI LIAO 10 Condor St. Concorde Vill. Mia Rd., Tambo, Parañaque City	BRYAN MARK YABAO 33 E. Rosalia St., St. Michael Village, Las Piñas City
Kenneth Cole His and Hers Watch His Model: KC 3584 Her Model: KC 4480	BARBARA B. GARCIA H-203 Galeria de Magallanes, Magallanes Vill., Makati	ZENAIDA C. ALBA 80 Angeles St., Alabang Hills Village
	AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Major Prize Raymond Weil His and Hers Watch His Model: 5568 MC 00308 Her Model: 5308 P00107 / 5308 MC 10200	WINNER: JOCELYN L. OQUIAS 27 Sanson Road, Lahug	WINNER: JOANNE LANGITAN Blk 128 Lot 10 MH Del Pilar Zn3, Brgy. Rizal, Makati City
Minor Prizes Lacoste His and Hers Watch His Model: 3510G63 Her Model: 3510L63	WINNERS: HAZEL GO 44 Eagle St., Sto. Niño Vill. Banilad, Cebu City	WINNERS: ASUNCION M. GARCIA 9011 Hormiga St., Rizal Vill. Makati
Lacoste His & Hers Watch His Model: 6800G31 Her Model: 6800L31	GEORGE DY 912 A.S. Fortuna St., Banilad Mandaue	ANNA RICHIE A. QUILATAN 347 Dingginbayan St., Ibayo, Tipas Taguig City
Kenneth Cole His and Hers Watch His Model: KC 3584 Her Model: KC 4480	AYLEEN M. BENITEZ #4 RSBS Mactan Airbase, Lapu-Lapu City	JOSEPHINE S. BERNARDO 1814-B Este St., Alvarez Extension Sta. Cruz, Manila

Winners have been notified via telephone call and registered mail. chronos LUCERNE TIMESTUDIO

glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market! Ayala Malls

A lot of samba, a dash of jazz

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

REVIEW

WATCHING SERGIO MENDES IN CONCERT is like reopening one's eyes to this indefatigable musician's world of diversity and contrasting colors held together by the playful, flowing rhythms of bossa nova—that swaying, jazz-tinged cousin of a Brazilian expression of revelry called samba.

The first five songs, delivered in Portuguese, signified how proud Mendes was of his roots, and rightly so. By the time the first English tune, "Pretty World," came on, it was clear that Mendes wanted people to see how beautiful life can still be, especially when enjoyed with music that mixes cultures and influences.

Mendes has enhanced the naturally festive samba with a dash of jazz, resulting in a kind of pop music that is no less infectious.

Mendes peaked in the late 1960s, generally acknowledged as the decade of the Beatles. But his upbeat version of "Fool on the Hill" would have thrilled Lennon and McCartney.

Exacting

In Mendes viewpoint, apparently, the beauty of diversity extends to having musicians of different nationalities performing together. His current band has an American drummer and a Brazilian percussionist who, on command, pounds away with rhythms that evoke the street carnivals of Rio de Janeiro, where Mendes built his career foundations.

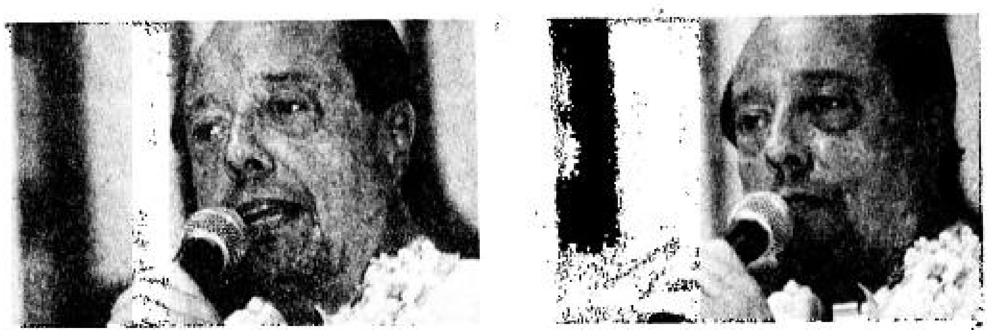
It was a career that launched other careers, notably of singers like Lani Hall and Kevyn Lettau and Joe Pizzulo and several others. At the Big Dome concert last weekend, Mendes' duo of female vocalists—one white, the other black—exuded confidence and discipline on top of the requisite talent, a combination of traits that would be hard to maintain under a less exacting bandleader. The duo's respective solo turns produced nearly note-for-note, yet still refreshing, versions of "Bridges" and "Waiting For Love."

While the fans lapped up every number, a few who may have been dragged by their partners complained, "*Parang 'kong dinuduyan ... dinuduyan sa antok (It's like I'm being lulled to sleep...).*" And just when they were on the brink of REM, Mendes gave way to his percussionist, who was a class act on his own with his nimble touch on the congas and assorted ethnic instruments.

Mendes himself was sprightly for his age, apparently having fun at the ivories and backup vocals, bringing to mind the graceful ways that the likes of Duke Ellington and other respected bandleaders spent their later years.

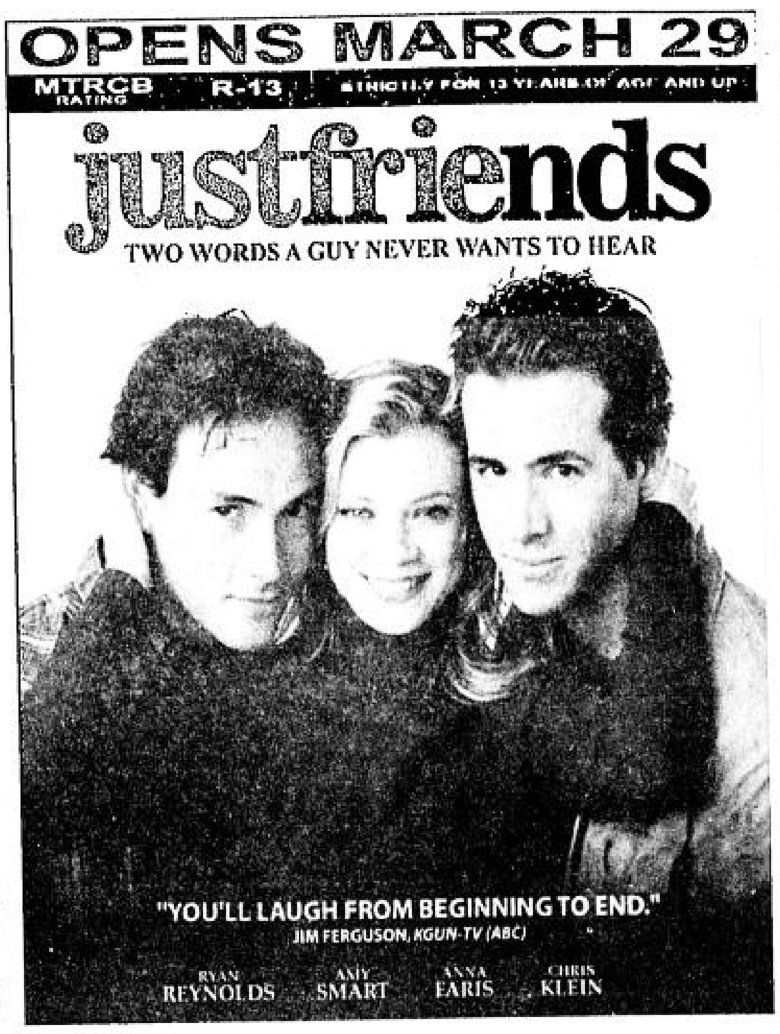
It may not be fair to elevate Mendes to the category of great jazz names or even great contemporary pop names; he deserves his own unique place in music appreciation.

> Sergio Mendes deserves his unique place in pop music history

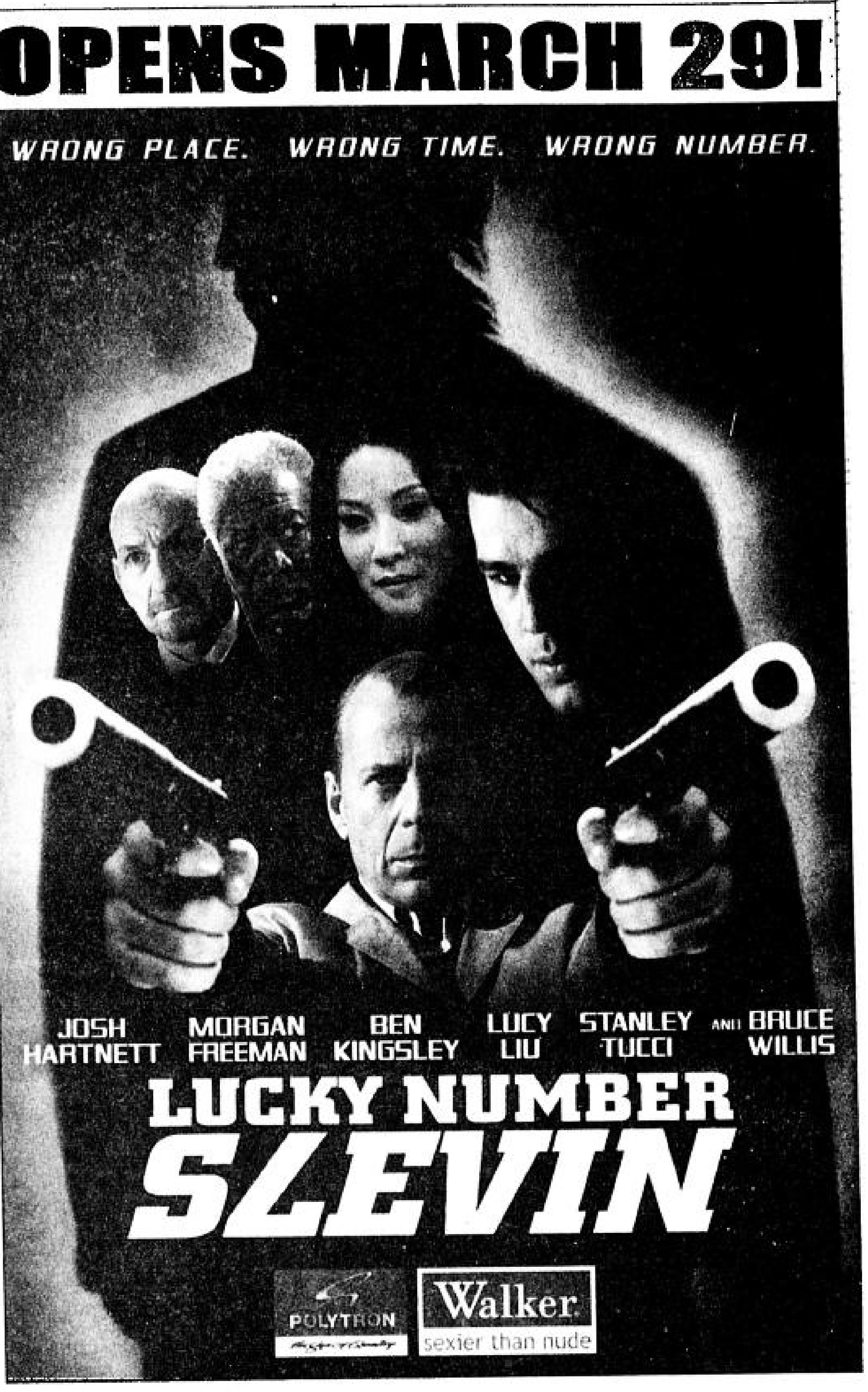


THE BRAZILIAN bandleader is still having fun at the ivories ... and backup vocals.

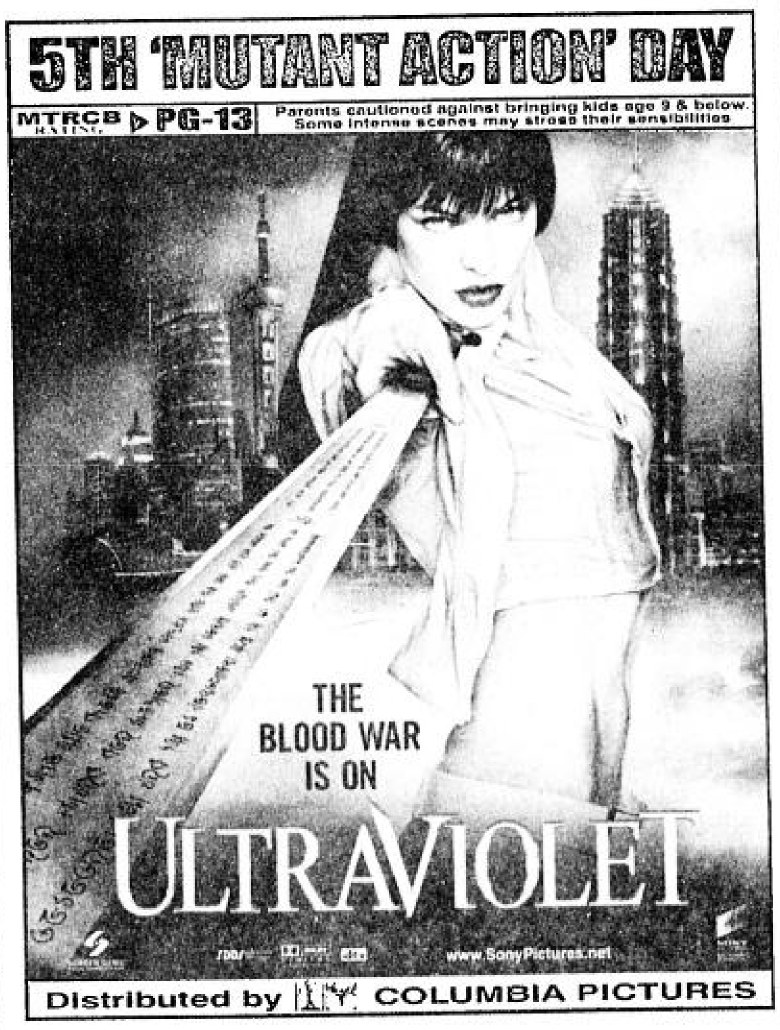
PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



OPENS MARCH 29
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
justfriends
TWO WORDS A GUY NEVER WANTS TO HEAR
"YOU'LL LAUGH FROM BEGINNING TO END."
JIM FERGUSON, KGUN-TV (ABC)
RYAN REYNOLDS AMY SMART ANNA FARIS CHRIS KLEIN



OPENS MARCH 29!
WRONG PLACE. WRONG TIME. WRONG NUMBER.
JOSH HARTNETT MORGAN FREEMAN BEN KINGSLEY LUCY LIU STANLEY TUCCI AND BRUCE WILLIS
LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
POLYTRON
Walker sexier than nude



5TH 'MUTANT ACTION' DAY
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OPENS MARCH 29
RAY ROMANO -MANNY
JOHN LEGUIZAMO -SID
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NORTH COUNTRY 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20	V FOR VENDETTA 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	SHAGGY DOG 12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10	ULTRAVIOLET 7:00 / 9:10 NANNY McPHEE 2:25 / 4:35
SHE'S THE MAN 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	HOSTEL 1:20 / 3:25 / 5:30 / 7:35 / 9:40	DATE MOVIE 7:30 / 9:40 16 BLOCKS 1:55 / 4:30 / 7:05 / 9:40	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P[illegible]

ALIMALL CINEMAS

1 V FOR VENDETTA 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00	2 ULTRAVIOLET 12:05 f12 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	3 NANNY McPHEE 1:35 / 3:45 / 5:55 / 8:05
4 HOSTEL 12:15 / 2:20 / 4:26 / 6:30 / 8:35	5 THE FEARLESS 12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

LOG ON TO WWW.ARANETACENTER.NET FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES
ARANETA COLISEUM
MICHAEL BOLTON LIVE IN MANILA
MARCH 29, WEDNESDAY 8 pm
SHARON CUNETA MY MEGA VALENTINE- THE REPEAT
MARCH 31, FRIDAY 8 pm

PLDT BUDGET CARD DECLARES

NATIONAL TELEBABAD DAY!

NAGULANTANG ang lahat nang ideklara ng PLDT Budget Card ang National Telebabad Day. Ibinagsak sa P3 per minute ang overseas call rate para sa tatlong bansa.

PROCLAMATION

3-5-8

LIBRENG TAWAG, LIBRENG SAYA!

P3 PER MINUTE

US, CANADA AT HONG KONG

P5 PER MINUTE

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China, Malaysia, Singapore South Korea and Taiwan

Pinoy Pop Band Cueshe members - all bona-fide Budget Card users!

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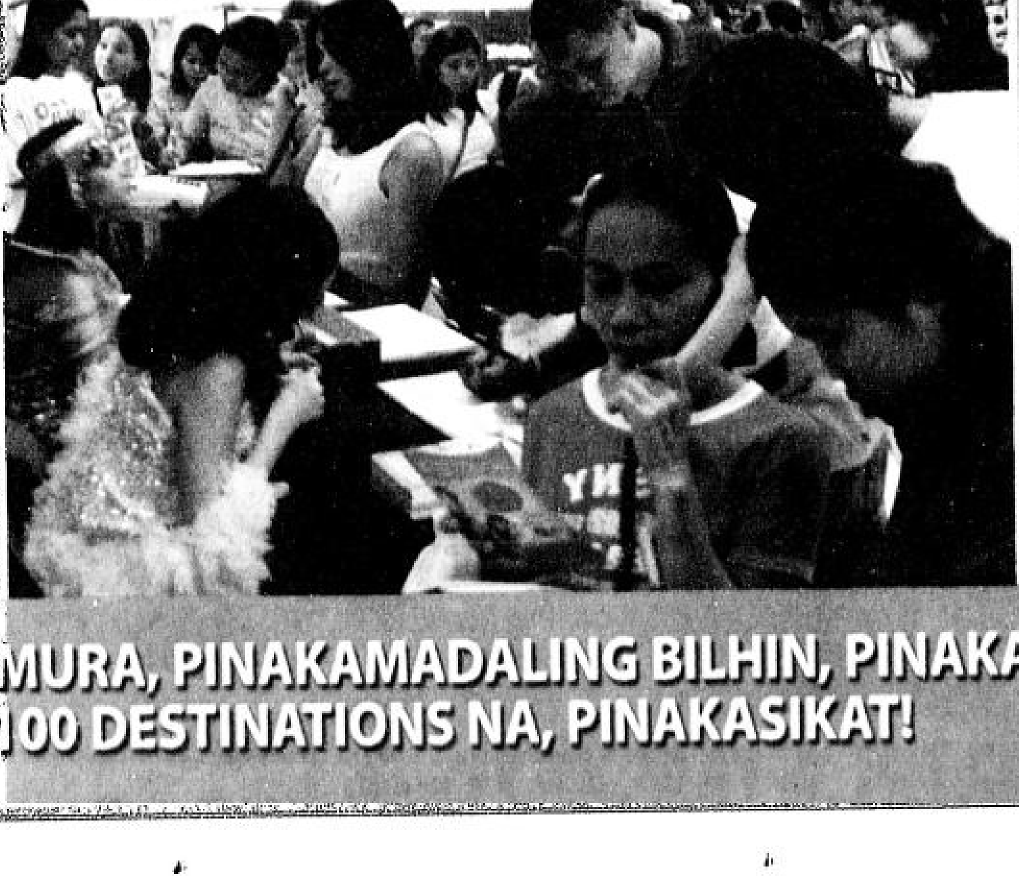

Kailangan pa bang i-memorize na PLDT Budget Card ang da best? Love Radio DJs Chris Tsuper, Nicole Hiyala & Eat Bulaga's Paolo Ballesteros

P8 PER MINUTE

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NATIONAL TELEBABAD DAY

Maki-libreng tawag na!

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SM Pampanga -	March 24 to 26
SM Davao -	March 30 to April 1
SM Sta. Rosa -	March 30 to April 1
SM Iloilo -	March 31 to April 2
SM Baguio -	March 31 to April 2
SM Cebu -	April 20 to 22

Maki-libreng saya pa with eat bulaga! stars and celebrity guests sa SM Entertainment Plaza

SM Fairview -	March 26
SM Baguio -	April 2
SM Iloilo -	April 2
SM Cebu -	April 22

PLDT Budget Card! PINAKAMURA, PINAKAMADALING BILHIN, PINAKAMADALING GAMITIN. 100 DESTINATIONS NA, PINAKASIKAT!

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CLAUDINE earlier said Raymart would foot the bill, but he might not feel the dent at all.

RUDY ESPERAS

But who will pay for the wedding?

By Nini Valera

AFTER ALL THE SPONSORSHIPS, IT MAY seem like neither bride nor groom spent a single centavo for this grand wedding.

The Raymart Santiago-Claudine Barretto nuptials tomorrow, being dubbed this early as "Wedding of the Year," is a very private event.

Unlike most celebrity nuptials where members of the press are among the guests, this one—set in the middle of the golf course in Tagaytay Highlands—is "strictly" for family and friends. And ABS-CBN, where Claudine is a contract star.

Star Magic, the network's talent management arm, sent out a media advisory on Wednesday saying the couple had their own official/accredited photographers and that anyone not on the list would not be allowed entry into either the ceremony or the reception

Very solemn

A digital copy of wedding pictures would be sent to various publications the next day, the advisory said.

Guests' cameras will also be confiscated at the entrance so that no light bulbs would be flashing during what a source described as a very solemn Christian ceremony.

In previous interviews with INQUIRER Entertainment, Claudine had been vague about details of the event, which was originally set last Jan. 6. It was to have been held on a private beach. The actress had evaded direct questions, saying that all details were being arranged by the wedding planner and ABS-CBN, which has exclusive rights to document the event—which, this early, is being dubbed "Wedding of the Year"—on video and still pictures, and subsequently air it. A source said sponsors have long

WHO/ A3-3

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of Jesus in
JORDAN, ISRAEL, EGYPT
w/ Rev. Fr. Corsie Legaspi
on
May 2006
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GLORY ROAD G 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
SHE'S THE MAN PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25
V FOR VENDETTA R13 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00
NORTH COUNTRY R13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
NANNY MCPHEE G 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50

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③ SHE'S THE MAN MTRCB PG-13 2:00, 4.25, 6.50, 9:15 LMF
② ULTRAVIOLET MTRCB PG-13 1:20, 3 30, 5.40, 7:50, 10 00 LMF
④ GLORY ROAD MTRCB GP 2 00, 4 40, 7.20, 10:00 LMF
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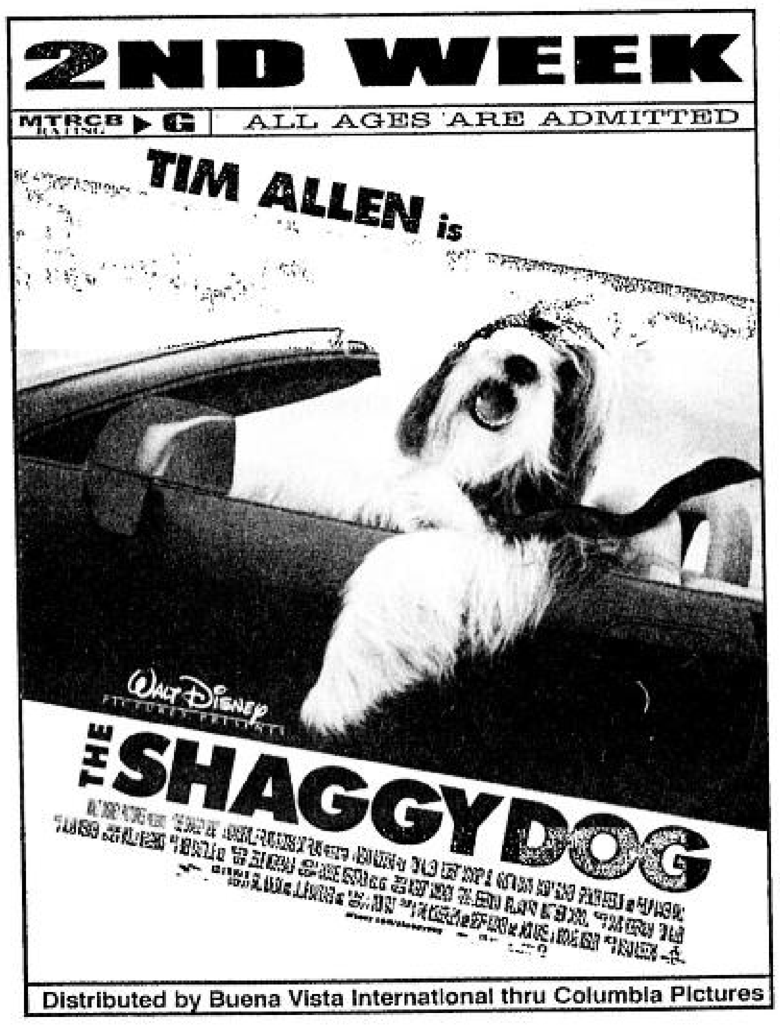
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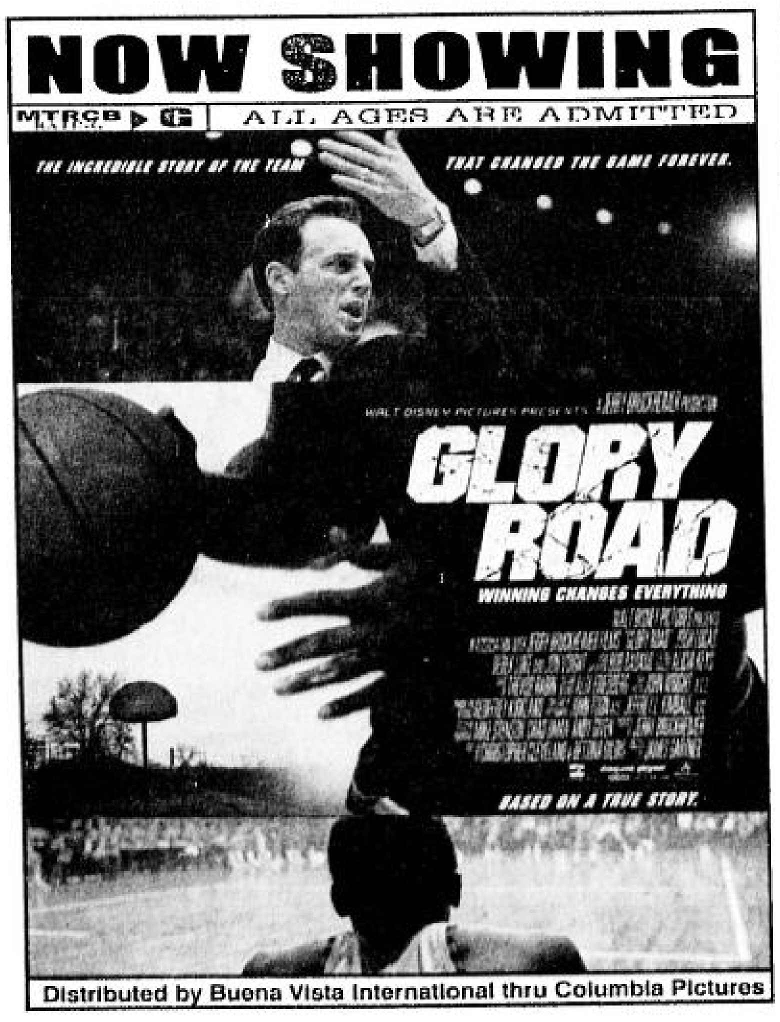
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Nurse LT for Daboy

RUSHES

LORNA TOLENTINO TOLD INQUIRER Entertainment that the major surgery her husband **Rudy Fernandez** underwent on March 21 at the Cardinal Santos Hospital was called "whipple—a resectioning of the intestines and bile duct." LT has had to take a break from work to be "full-time private nurse" for Rudy. "He didn't want to hire one," she said. "He wanted me to do it."

At the bazaar

Seen at **Ruffa Gutierrez**'s "Celebrity Tiangge for Leyte," at the Market! Market! Trade Hall: **Aleck Bovick**. But where was **Gretchen Malalad**? Although she was linked to her "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate and best buddy, Aleck was spotted with rumored boyfriend **Carlo Maceda**.

What is she up to? All grown up, former teen star **Anna Roces** once worked in a hotel and contemplated a show biz comeback. Is this it?

Ruffa's mom **Annabelle Rama** added "cashier" to her multi-hyphenated designations.

Speaking of glamorous moms. Former beauty queen **Jean Saburit** accompanied daughter **Nicole Anderson** at the *baratillo*.

Another family that shops together. **Ramon Christopher Gutierrez** supported half-sister Ruffa and turned up with his three daughters by ex-wife **Lotlot de Leon**.

At the film market

Seen at the Hong Kong Film and Television Market, held at the HK Convention and Exhibition Center in Wanchai.

Jackie Oh! Chopsocky superstar **Jackie Chan** graced the HK Entertainment Expo Gala Night.

Jose Mari Abacan of GMA Films and **Lily Monteverde** of Regal Entertainment manned the Philippine booth with **Christine Dayrit** of the Cinema Evaluation Board.

Cris crossed

Cris Villanueva had a heated word war with ex-lover **Criselda Volks** over child support. Between guestings on TV *chismis* shows, Cris found the time to finish an indie movie, "Siquijor." Criselda also has an indie in the can, "Kaleldo."

LORNA Tolentino, RN (Rudy's nurse)

MARKY Cielo
ROMY HOMILLADA

ALECK Bovick and Carlo Maceda
RUDY ESPERAS

JOSE Mari Abacan and Lily Monteverde at the HK Filmart. MEL MARTINEZ

RUDY ESPERAS

RUDY ESPERAS

RAMON Christopher and daughters, left; Anna Roces at right.

Robin da Designer

A design consultant and student at the Philippine School of Interior Design, model-actor **Robin Da Roza** now hosts a Sunday-morning lifestyle show on Studio 23, "Welcome Home." The show will feature homes with character and personality. "Our philosophy," Robin said, "is no rules, no restrictions, no inhibitions."

ROBIN Da Roza

Reunion?

Jolina Magdangal may soon be reunited with former onscreen partner **Marvin Agustin**. Just like Jolina before him, Marvin is reportedly making the big move from ABS-CBN to GMA 7.

Ambassador Marky

GMA's Sole Survivor Marky Cielo is the new ambassador for the Mountain Province, according to its tourism board. He would've been perfect for the role of "Machete," but **Joseph Bitangcol** beat him to it on rival network ABS-CBN's remake.

Merry Mariel

"PBB" host **Mariel Rodriguez** yearns to do drama roles, "as soon as I learn how to cry on cue." In preparation, she attended Workshops@ABS-CBN. **Beverly Vergel**, the workshop's director, opines that Mariel's "pleasant disposition" makes her a natural for hosting and comedy, though.

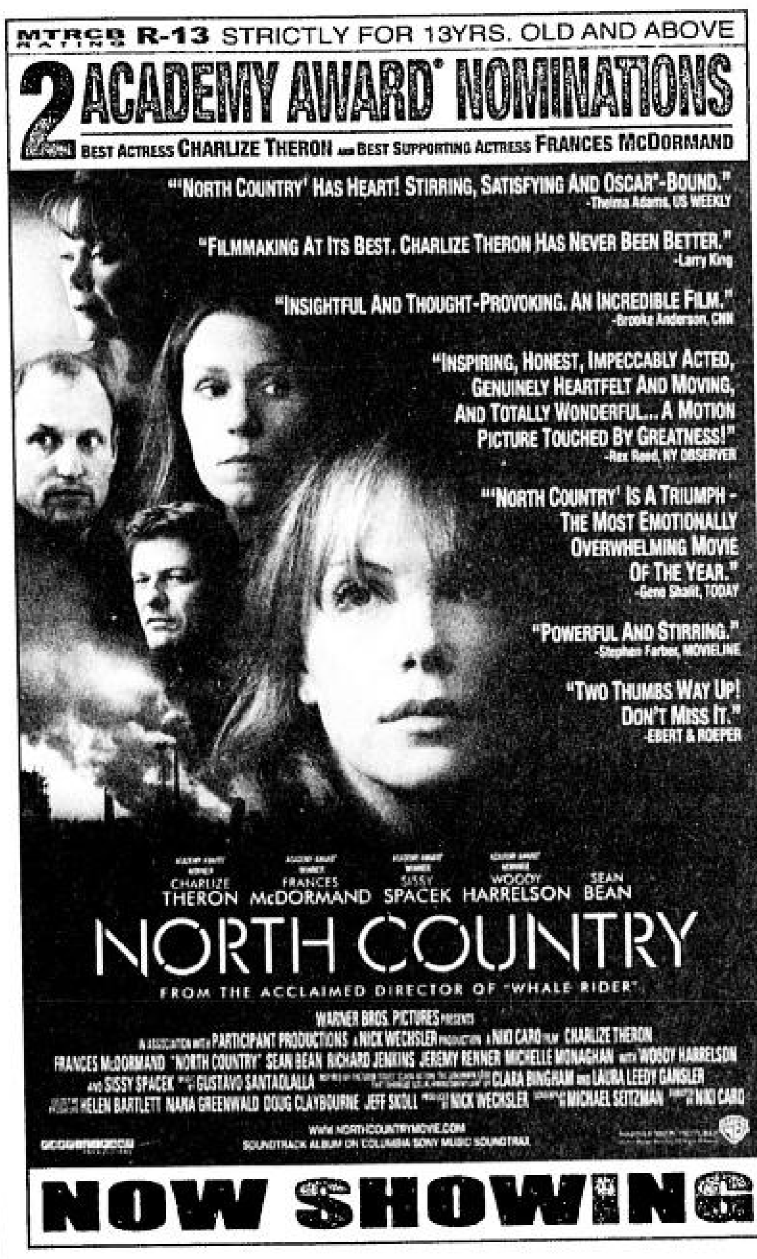
SAM Milby

The Queen and the Amboy

No, they aren't a couple. If there are sightings of "PBB" hunk **Sam Milby** and Miss International **Precious Lara Quigaman** together these days, it's because they've been hired as models for a vitamin brand.

Globe-trotting movie

The shoot for the new **Sharon Cuneta-Aga Muhlach** movie has been moved from England to Canada. After the Star Cinema project, Sharon is set to do another movie with Unitel.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'Jologs' glossy, grungy

By Paul Dazá
Contributor

REVIEW

GMA NETWORK'S YOUTHFUL NEW REALITY magazine show, "Jologs Guide," made its energetic debut Sunday night. With its bouncy original theme song and a look that's both glossy and grungy, "Jologs Guide" has an easygoing charm that's mostly enjoyable. But to call the show "refreshing" would be a stretch, unless you consider discussions about farting at parties refreshing.

Though its hosts are amusing and easygoing, crassness reared its ugly head at one point in the pilot episode, which airs at dinnertime. One segment has "Jologs" co-host Rainier Castillo asking high society guru Tim Yap how a guy should excuse himself from a conversation at a party "*kung utot na utot na siya*" (if he really has to fart). You're left wondering if this question is one which viewers really want answered, or if it's just the show's way of establishing that it's cool and hip by ignoring standards of good taste. (For the record, Yap's practical reply is to just get the hell out of there a.s.a.p.)

With the exception of that query about farting, the show was fun to watch. Its first section was spent answering the question, "Who or what are the *jologs*"? Dozens were asked, from jeepney drivers to high-ranking politicians. Though they all had different answers, the conclusion is that every Filipino has a little bit of *jologs* inside him/her. This reinforces a line from the show's catchy theme song, which states, "*Jologs ako… jologs tayong lahat*."

Etiquette lessons

In fact, the show's funniest bit happens in this portion. Amazingly enough, co-host Ethel Booba is allowed to attend a Malacañang press briefing to ask Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye what *jologs* is. His reply after a one minute recess? That *jologs* is someone who sleeps and falls down … "*natulog at nahulog*"!

After viewers are told that they are all *jologs*, we move on, strangely enough, to an etiquette lesson. It's time to learn how a *jologs* should behave in a party or *sosyalan*. Hosts Rainier Castillo and Ethel Booba ask *sosyalan* experts Tim Yap and Tessa Prieto-Valdes, respectively, for tips on how to behave at a fashion show with Manila's glitterati. Tellingly, Tim and Tessa never advise the hosts to be themselves. Rather, they tell them to always find something good to say about someone they're talking to (e.g., "You've lost weight!"), and that it's a bad idea to bring home food in a doggie bag.

The last part of the 45-minute show allows us to know the hosts better. They are presented as the perfect people to host a show about *jologs* because they are *jologs* themselves. Ethel Booba, Mike "Pekto" Nacua and Rainier Castillo visit the lower middle-class neighborhoods they grew up in. Friends and relatives testify that the hosts have not let fame get to their heads, and that they are simple as they ever were, still seeking out fish balls and barbecue and just plain hanging out.

What "Jologs Guide" doesn't hint at is what we can expect in future episodes. What's next?

This first airing feels more like an introduction than a fully-formed episode. We've met the ship's captains but have no idea where they'll be taking us. We're left wondering if they've mapped out a journey for their viewers, or if they'll just make things up as they go.

> Now that we've met the captains, we sure would like to know where they're taking us

WHY three hosts? From left, Rainier Castillo, Ethel Booba and Pekto

Who will pay for the wedding?

From page A3-1

been battling for commercial spots.

But Claudine said Raymart would shoulder all expenses.

Pink, lilac and mauve are the color motifs for the wedding, described by another source as a grand, lavish and English country style. The rites will be officiated by Pastor Robert Hern. Giveaways are bonsai plants, prepared under the supervision of the groom, an enthusiast.

Rita Neri replaced former wedding coordinator Ting Blando, according to another source.

The couple will exchange rings by Tiffany, and the bride will wear a gown by Randy Ortiz. Her makeup will be done by Juan Sarte, her hair by Celeste Tuviera.

Entourage

The wedding entourage lists Marjorie Bldivia and Geraldine Reyes as matrons of honor; Reily Pablo Santiago and Renovich Reyes, best men; Beinne Andrews, Maria Rasciel de la Cruz, Michelle Antoinette Barreto, Marilou Santiago, Maria Rhea Joven, Assunta Ledesma, Jenny Miller and Ciara Sotto, bridesmaids.

Bobby Andrews, Albert Reyes, Rowell Joseph Santiago, Randy Gerard Santiago, Miguel John Barretto, Pocholo de Leon, Dennis Esteban Baldivia, and Mark Joseph Barretto are the groomsmen.

Edu Manzano and Maricel Soriano are veil sponsors; Aga Muhlach and Charlene Muhlach, candle; Benjie Paras and Yvette Oca, cord.

Junior bridesmaids are Aynrand Daniele Baldivia, Alexandra Nicole Barretto, Julia Francesca Baldivia, Gissele Andrea Barretto, and Claudia Isabelle Baldivia.

Ryan Leonardo Santiago, Ragael Louis Santiago, Andre Barretto, Ryle Paolo Santiago, and Anton Barretto are the junior groomsmen.

Bible bearer is Miguel Lucas Barretto; Leon Marcus Baldivia, coin bearer; Railo Rainier Santiago, ring bearer; Sabina Natasha Santiago, flower girl, who would be escorted by Joshua Gabriel Joven and Johann Daniel Joven.

Spa treat

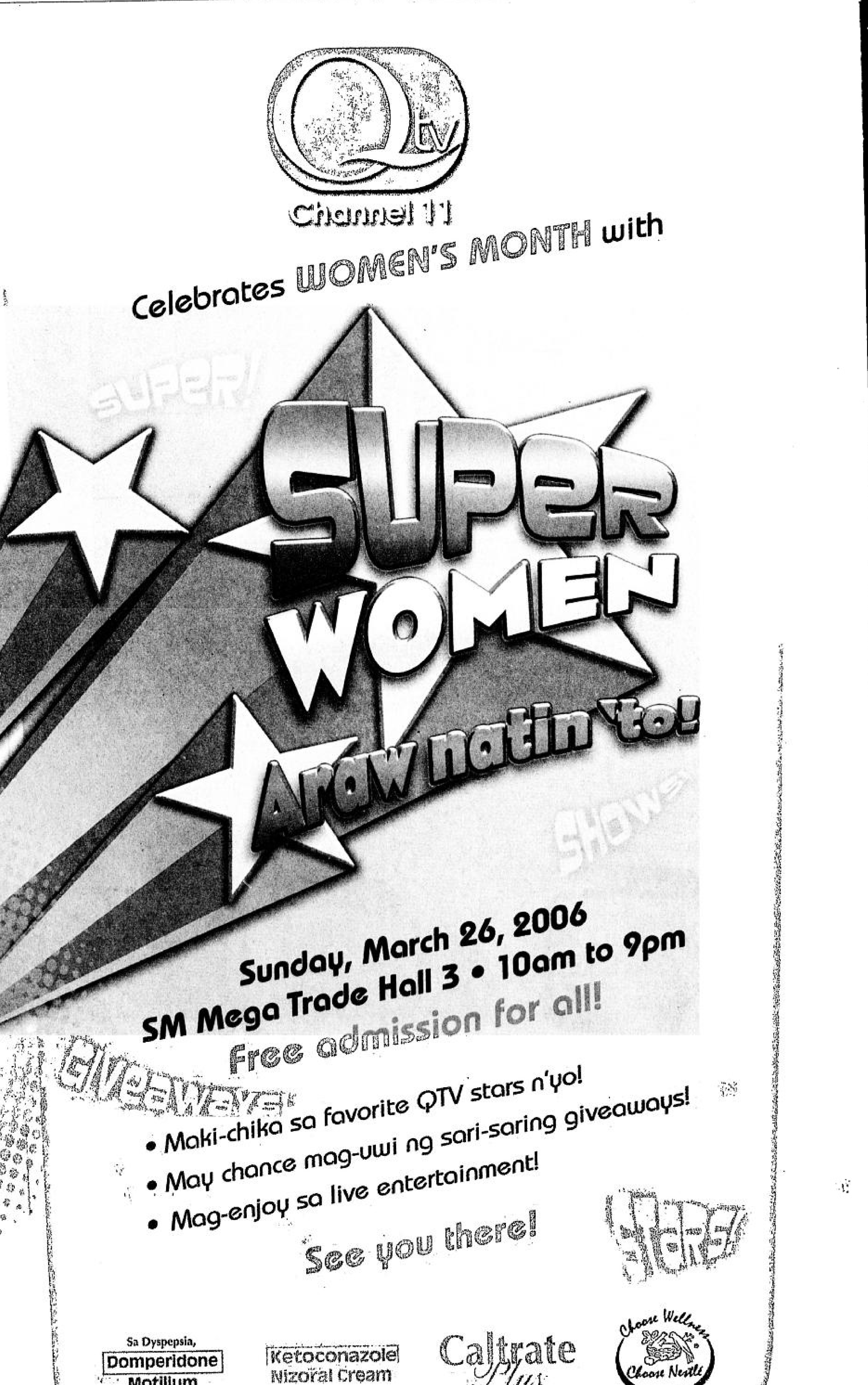
The couple threw a party after the entourage was finalized last year. Even the food tasting became a party for their friends and family. Another party was held on March 7 at the Teatrino in Greenhills, to introduce the CD of the couple's favorite songs, which were recorded by a full orchestra.

Claudine treated the women in her entourage to two days at the spa—one for the body, another just for the hands and nails.

The bride was only 14 when she first met Raymart, then 18, and one of the hottest teen stars in show biz. She was nursing a raging crush at the time on Raymart, who struck her as a snob. He took notice of at a party years later.

Friends and family, including Raymart's brother-in-law, Dennis Paddila, Marjorie Barretto's husband, objected to the brewing romance.

But there was no stopping true love. The two soon became a couple and, eventually, parents to an adopted girl, Sabina.



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CEB's Dayrit is new Iffcom head

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

CHRISTINE DAYRIT IS THE NEW CHAIR OF the International Film Festival Committee (Iffcom), taking over the post previously held by Ma. Azucena "Manay Ichu" Maceda who had resigned earlier this month.

This was announced by Rolando "Jacky" Atienza, chair of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP).

He told INQUIRER Entertainment that Dayrit's appointment is in line with FDCP's two-pronged thrust: "to stimulate investments in the film industry through the Film Fund and to expand the revenue potential of local films by expanding markets (through participation in film festivals and film markets abroad)."

Apart from heading Iffcom which is the government body tasked with helping local movies penetrate film festivals abroad, Dayrit is also the chair of the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB) and the Monitoring Committee of the Film Fund.

Atienza said that the Iffcom board is also up for a revamp. "We'll retain some of the old members, but some would also have to resign."

The news came on the heels of Dayrit's arrival from the Hong Kong Film and TV Market, where the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) had set up an RP booth, which was supported by the FDCP and participated in by Filipino producers like Regal, Imus and GMA Films.

Unico and the Animation Council of the Philippines also set up booths at the HK Filmart, which ran March 20 to 23. FAP executive secretary John Suarez, filmmakers Jeffrey Jeturian and Dante Mendoza and film editor Manet Dayrit of Roadrunner also attended the event.

Dayrit met with Lesly Wong and Angela Ho of the HK Trade Development Council. "They said that they would facilitate business matching of local producers with foreign buyers. There were also seminars on co-production opportunities."

The HK trip was "a success," she said. "The producers received many inquiries. They hope to get confirmation of the sales soon."

She said that the more popular products among the Thai, Malaysian and Taiwanese buyers were "fantasy flicks like 'Mulawin' and 'Exodus' and horror movies like 'Sigaw' and 'Shake, Rattle and Roll 2K5'."

Independent films like "Kaleldo," "Masahista," and "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" also had "successful screenings at the HK Filmart theater," Dayrit reported. "The FDCP is now studying the prospect of joining the Pusan Film Festival in October and the American Film Market in November."

DAYRIT (right) with Raymond Yip Chak-yan, assistant executive director of HK Trade Development Council at the HK Filmart.

MEL MARTINEZ

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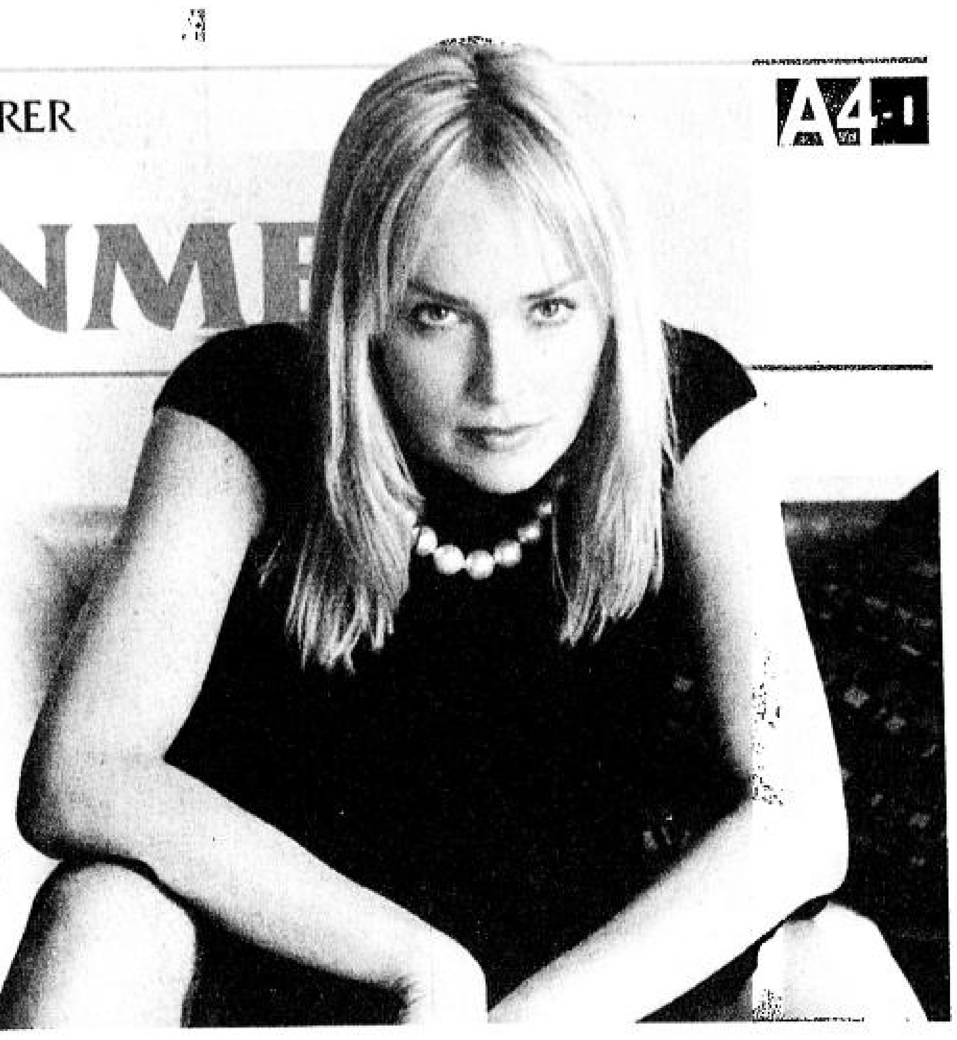
ENTERTAINME

Naked instinct

Sharon Stone says she pushed for more nudity and more sex for 'Basic Instinct 2'



ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—SHARON STONE ARRIVED late for our press con but she had a disarming explanation: "They held me in hair and make-up prison because guess what, I didn't look this good when I got up. Hi!"

It's hard to believe this woman couldn't get a date to her high school prom. She earned extra points with us by announcing, "First of all, before we start, I have known most of you over the years. So I'd like to know, are there any new members that I haven't met?" A few of us stood up and introduced ourselves. She is the only actress who ever thought of that.

Over 10 years since she shocked the world by the mere act of uh, crossing her legs (and showing everything) , Sharon is back in "Basic Instinct 2" as San Francisco crime novelist Catherine Tramell. Normally, we would see the movie before our interview. For this one, we talked to the former beauty contestant and Ford model without having seen this sequel to a movie that raked in more than $350 million at the box office.

The brainy actress (IQ: 154) said: "The new movie would either work or we'd be hanging our heads in shame in the supermarket. I'm bummed that you couldn't see it before this interview because you're kind of going into it blind. I thank you for doing this."

"Basic Instinct 2" moves from San Francisco to London where Sharon's Catherine tangles with a criminal psychiatrist, Dr. Michael Glass (**David Morrissey**).

Separated from **Phil Bronstein**, former Manila correspondent and current editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, Sharon is back living in LA. One of the best interview subjects in Hollywood, she talked candidly about nudity (she pushed for more of it in this sequel), the leg-crossing scene, her sons (one with Phil plus two adopted boys), **Benjamin Bratt** (she denied rumors that she rejected her "Catwoman" co-star as the male lead in this new movie) and fame, among other topics.

It was remarkable, almost sad, to hear that a woman like Sharon simply wants a guy who will be there for her and her three boys.

The actress survived a near fatal brain aneurysm in 2001. Taking over as the honorary chair of the American Foundation for AIDS research, this Democrat has raised millions of dollars through glamorous fund-raising events.

Can you tell us if the sequel will have startling and controversial aspects just like the first one?

Yes, there are very provocative things at the start of the movie that are quite intense. When I ultimately did a full nude scene, I thought it should be done in such a startling way that it would be disturbing... threatening. I thought it should have [that] quality to it because by the time the film is released, I would have turned 48. I thought it would be intriguing to do the nudity in a way that's quite brazen.

You have this whole philosophy about your character's attitude during this nude scene.

I had this concept that she is like a Mafia don in this moment because Catherine Tramell mocks a lot of masculine behavior. You know how men in steam rooms use their nudity as a weapon when they're talking or doing business. They get up (she stood up and assumed a macho posture) and talk like, "Hey, you know..." and it becomes kind of bizarre. That's sort of an old school kind of thing.

Catherine is kind of an old school character. She uses that masculine behavior to get what she wants. I would use the nudity as in, "Yeah, I'm naked and I want to talk to you about something. I thought people are going to have that moment where it's like, "Oh, she's not 20 and she's naked. What do I think about that? Am I comfortable with that?" We're used to seeing Sean Connery or Mel Gibson being paired with an actress young enough to be his granddaughter (laughter), you know what I mean? And that's normal.

[So] I wanted to have people have that moment. Then it cuts back to me and they'll go oh, "Forty something-year-old woman looks like that naked"... and it keeps going on; it's a long scene.

When you saw the film's rough cut, you wanted more nudity, more sex and more edgy verbal stuff. Apparently, you were coming from a really kinky mindset for this movie.

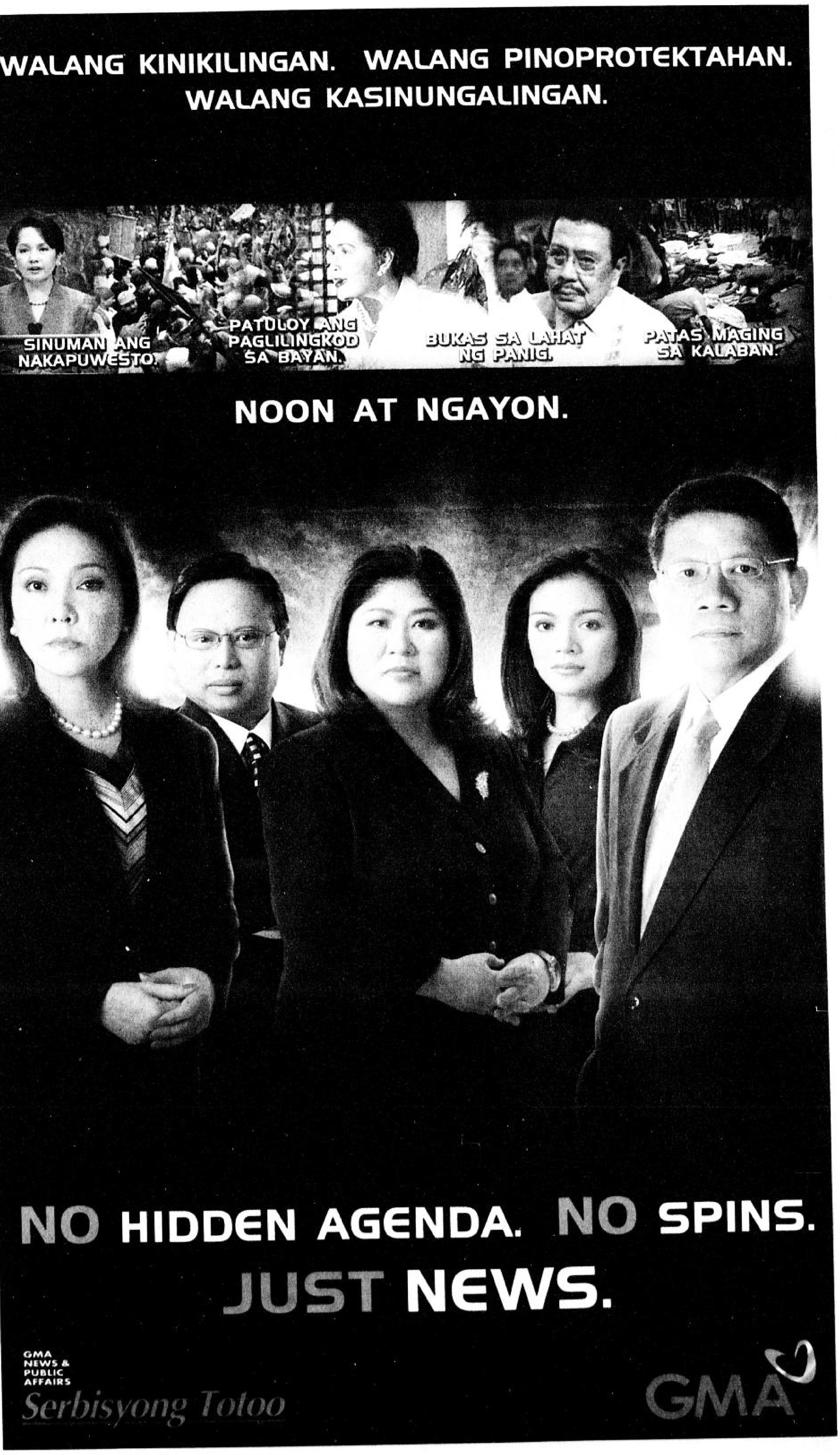
Yes, I felt that the first movie wasn't in a balance enough about why [Michael Douglas' character] was going crazy.

We haven't seen Catherine Tramell in years. As an actress, what back story did you concoct for her?

I do have a very weird story for her. I had this idea that she got really worn out in San Francisco as one can (laughter) and really needed to get out of there before she killed one too many people as one could (laughter).

I had this weird idea that she moved to Arizona or Colorado and lived in a dude ranch kind of area with cowboys and stuff. She thought, I'll see what it's like to learn to do that strange cowboy life. See if I can hunt and fish, see what animals are really like and see if I can really outrun animals. I thought she got

NAKED/ A4-4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ERROL Heracleo "Budoy" Marabiles

Stripping for Budoy

By Gerard Pareja
Contributor, PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE NIGHT AFTER "PINOY BIG Brother Celebrity Edition" housemate Errol Heracleo "Budoy" Marabiles was nominated for eviction from the reality show, a University of the Philippines-Cebu Fine Arts professor and six of his students stripped naked during their lounge act Tuesday night in Kahayag Café.

CHEER FACTOR

Prof. Raymund Fernandez, one of the founders of Pusod, a non-government pro-artist organization of which Budoy is a member, said they wanted to generate as much support as possible for Budoy because he is the champion of Cebu artists.

Fernandez and colleagues stripped onstage while playing an experimental bluesy-jazz number.

They hoped that news of their activity would bring in text votes for their bet.

Front man

Budoy is the front man of the seminal cerebral reggae band "Jr. Kilat" and the host of "Esmol Tym," a show on cable television Channel RCTV 36 about small entrepreneurs.

Budoy was a multi-awarded Fine Arts student of UP Cebu. He was active in Pusod's activities before he went serious with his musical career.

As Budoy's recipient group, Pusod will get the counterpart P1 million, should he win the top prize in the reality TV show.

Fernandez is also a father figure in whose house Budoy lived for a while.

Apart from the hope that their little show would generate more text votes for his "surrogate son," Fernandez said exposing themselves was just enough payback, since Budoy had given Pusod a fair amount of nationwide exposure by joining "Pinoy Big Brother.

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4 (DOLBY) GLORY ROAD GP
PREMIERE
NORTH COUNTRY R13
(DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA R13

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) SHAGGY DOG
2 (SDDS) FINAL DESTINATION
3 (DTS) SHE'S THE MAN
4 GOLD (DTS) V FOR VENDETTA
5 GOLD (DOLBY) NANNY MCPHEE
6 GOLD (SDDS) ULTRAVIOLET
7 GOLD (DOLBY) GLORY ROAD
8 HOSTEL
9 NORTH COUNTRY
10 16 BLOCKS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) GLORY ROAD
2 (DOLBY) ULTRAVIOLET
3 (DOLBY) NANNY MCPHEE
4 NORTH COUNTRY / V FOR VENDETTA

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 NANNY MCPHEE
3 GLORY ROAD
4 ULTRAVIOLET

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) GLORY ROAD
2 (DOLBY) NANNY MCPHEE
3 (DOLBY) ULTRAVIOLET
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) GLORY ROAD
2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 NORTH COUNTRY
4 NANNY MCPHEE
5 V FOR VENDETTA

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
5 HOSTEL

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1 HOSTEL
2 NEW BLOOD
3 BREAKING NEWS
4 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 MURDER
2 DATE MOVIE
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 FEARLESS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 ; 833.3274
1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 V FOR VENDETTA
3 HOUSE OF FURY

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 SHAGGY DOG
2 DATE MOVIE

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3025
1 16 BLOCKS
2 DATE MOVIE
3 FEARLESS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) 16 BLOCKS
2 CASANOVA
3 (DTS ES) FINAL DESTINATION
4 V FOR VENDETTA

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DTS) RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
AEON FLUX
DATE MOVIE
RESERVED
RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8409
1 16 BLOCKS
2 DATE MOVIE
3 (DOLBY) FEARLESS
4 THE DARK D/W HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

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1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2 FEARLESS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 CASANOVA
2 (DTS) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS
4 ST. ANGIE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 16 BLOCKS
2 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 (DTS) CASANOVA
4 ST. ANGIE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 FEARLESS
2 DATE MOVIE
3 (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 DATE MOVIE
2 THE DESCENT
3 (DOLBY) CASANOVA
4 DTS, AEON FLUX

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 (DOLBY) SAW-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)
1 16 BLOCKS
2 DATE MOVIE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 HOSTEL
2 PIRANHA-3

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) FINAL DESTINATION -2
2 SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN
3 RED ROSES
4 (DTS) SNEAK CHARMER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS
2 BIGAY HILIG
3 (DTS) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 ST. ANGIE
5 CASANOVA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 UNANG TIKIM
2 CASANOVA
3 DATE MOVIE
4 SHAGGY DOG

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 CHECK IN

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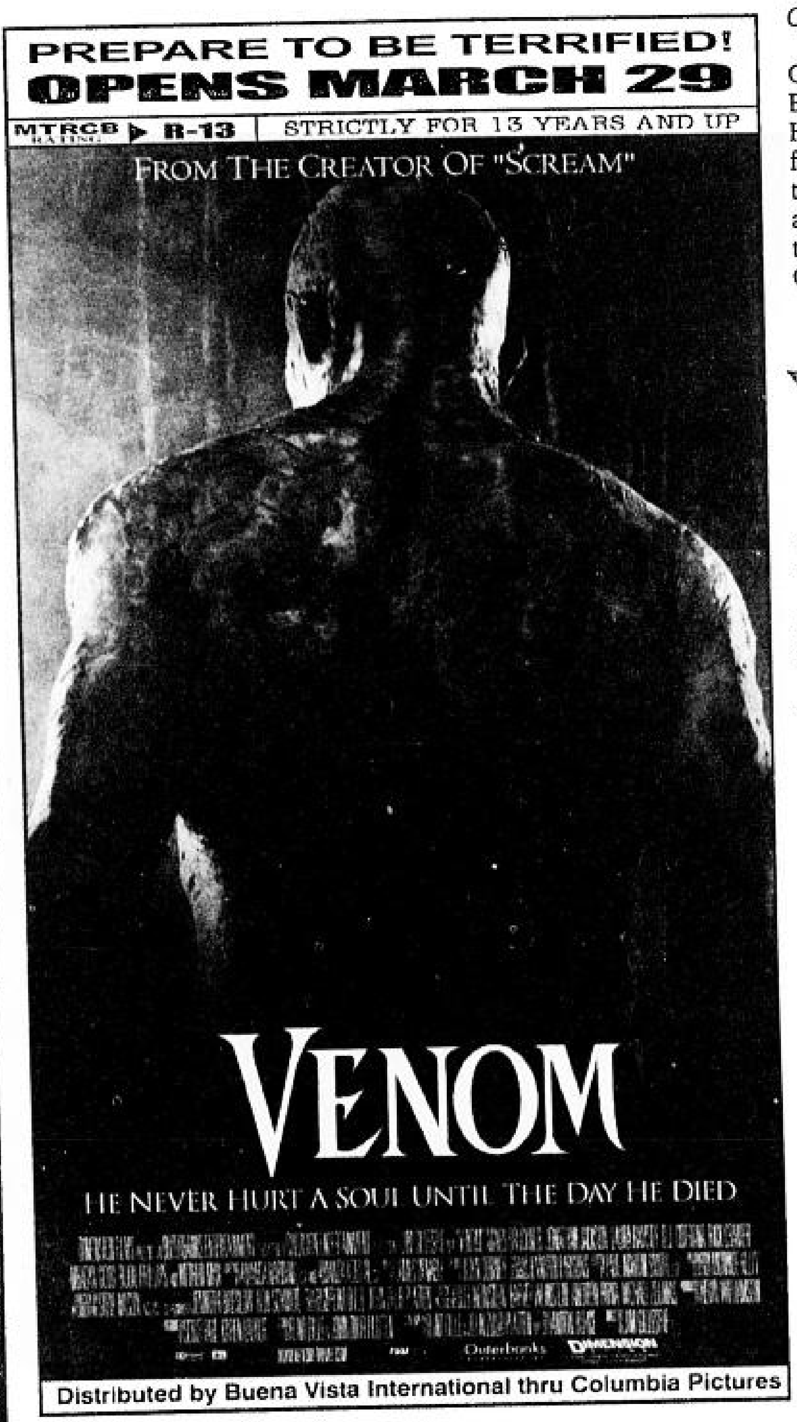
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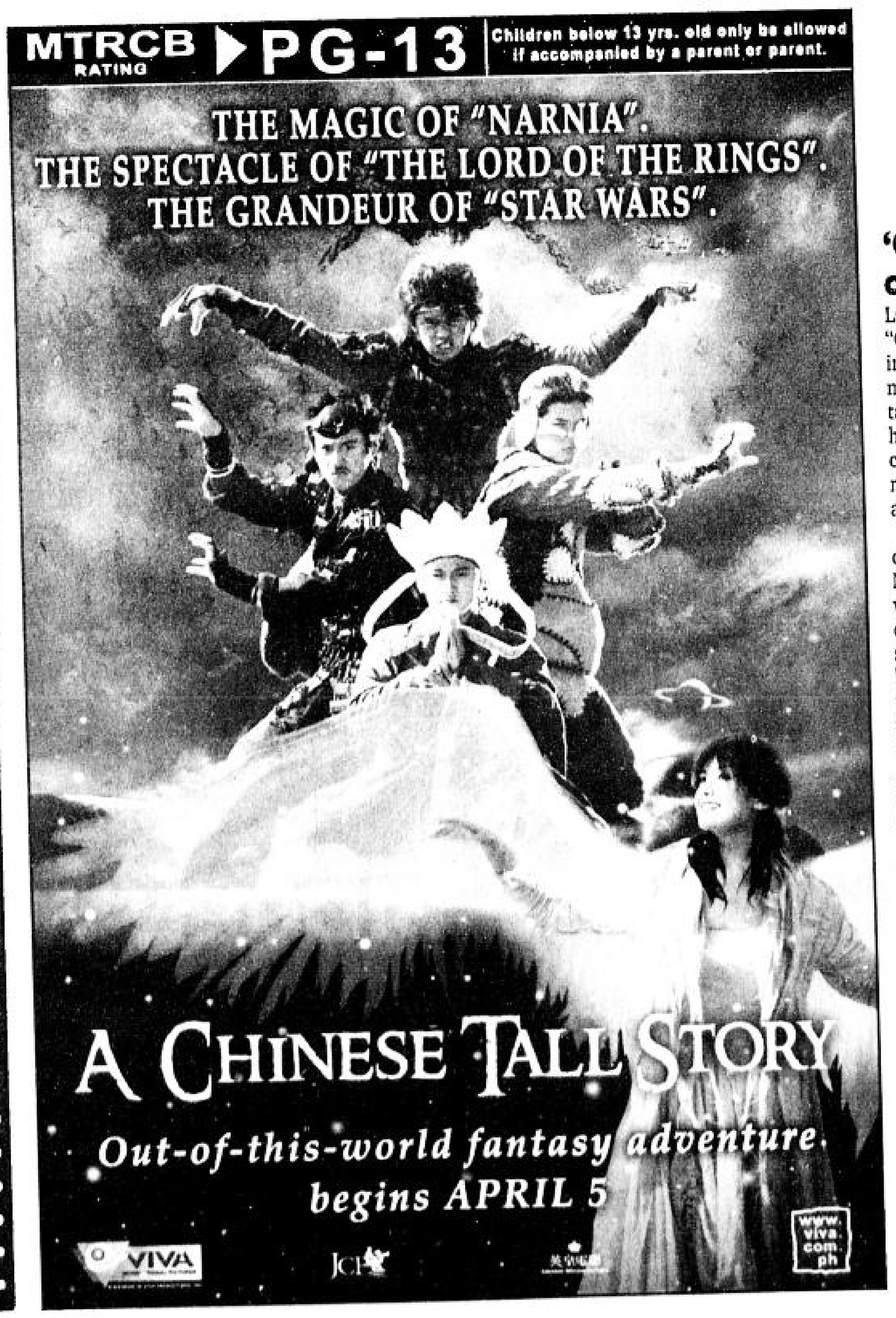
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DID YOU KNOW...

'Crash' curses

LOS ANGELES—"Crash," Best Picture in this year's Academy Awards, also takes first prize in having the most curse words in a movie nominated for an Oscar.

The movie watchdog group FamilyMediaGuide.com, which tracks incidents of profanity, sex, violence and tobacco use in films, reported that "Crash" wins the Most Profane Award with 182 expletives, including 99 utterances of the f-word.

"Brokeback Mountain" ranked second among this year's Best Picture nominees with 92 curse words, followed by "Munich" with 22.

The record is held by the Vietnam War drama "Platoon," with 329. "The Deer Hunter" is second with 208.

FamilyMediaGuide says it makes no judgment on a movie's value, but merely works to guide parents. *AP*

FEEDBACK

'Wowowee' for always

From Anthony M. Reyes (sweet_pinoy2k1@yahoo.com) 8800 SE Causey Loop P203 Portland, Oregon:

Hi, I would just like to say that I still feel for the families who continue to mourn their loved ones who perished in the "Wowowee" stampede.

But please, this show is not trying to insult those Kapamilya audiences or fans. I have seen the show over and over. It is not about ratings, or who's the top network. It just about giving happiness to Kapamilya viewers over there..

I don't blame ABS-CBN at all. It's the people who should be blamed for the tragedy. I understand that many Filipinos are impoverished.

We should not put down the TV station. ABS-CBN and GMA 7 are the best in our country and, for Filipinos all over the world, even internationally.

ABS-CBN didn't turn its back on the responsibility for the tragedy. That is very commendable.

It was an unfortunate occurrence, but these things happen. We should move on. Filipinos are quite good at this—coping with trials.

Whatever, the stampede has not affected the interest of Filipinos in the show, including my own family here in the US, and friends in Japan and Canada.

We still love "Wowowee." I used to like "Eat Bulaga" and its hosts. But they're not funny anymore... sometimes they even hurt people's feelings. When I watch "Wowowee," I see hope... happiness... caring and love for the viewers and fans. I'm just an ordinary Filipino; I just hope more and more people would reach out and help.

I salute ABS-CBN. Keep it up, God bless you.

Not this one

From Dennise Chriselle Cristi Amado (dennisechriselle@gmail.com) Philippine Center for Specialized Health Care, National Kidney Institute East Avenue, Quezon City:

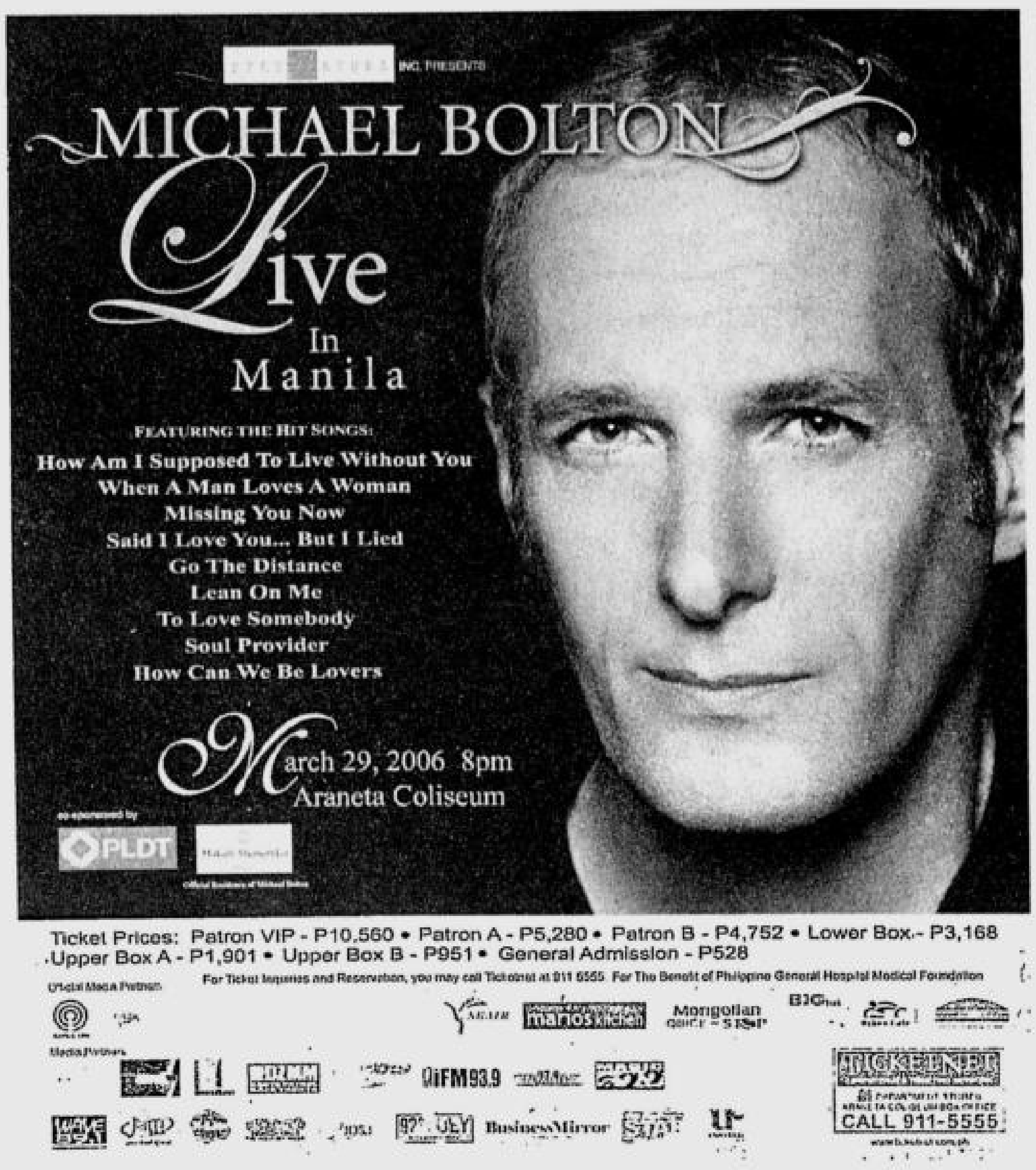
Images of "Wowowee" host, Willie Revillame, cavorting onstage on March 11, 2006 leaves a bitter taste in the mouth. It offends the sensibilities of viewers who know that families of more than 70 fans who died senseless deaths are still awaiting justice.

Identified by the NBI as one of the responsible parties in that tragic Ultra incident of February 4, ABS-CBN appears uncaring. With a harem of dancers gyrating and some drizzling of confetti on stage, it was more like a welcoming party for their "fallen hero." It was an ugly attempt at justifying their brand of charity.

Perhaps, to some extent, they are sincere. Yet, footages of the host, teary-eyed and sad, his arms around the victims, have bombarded viewers to the point of nausea. What really is their agenda?

The network knows how powerful public perception can be and it is certainly using that to advantage.

Indeed, no law prohibits Channel 2 from airing "Wowowee" again. Even so, basic principles of humanity such as compassion and sympathy dictate that such a boisterous celebration be withheld, or at least toned down.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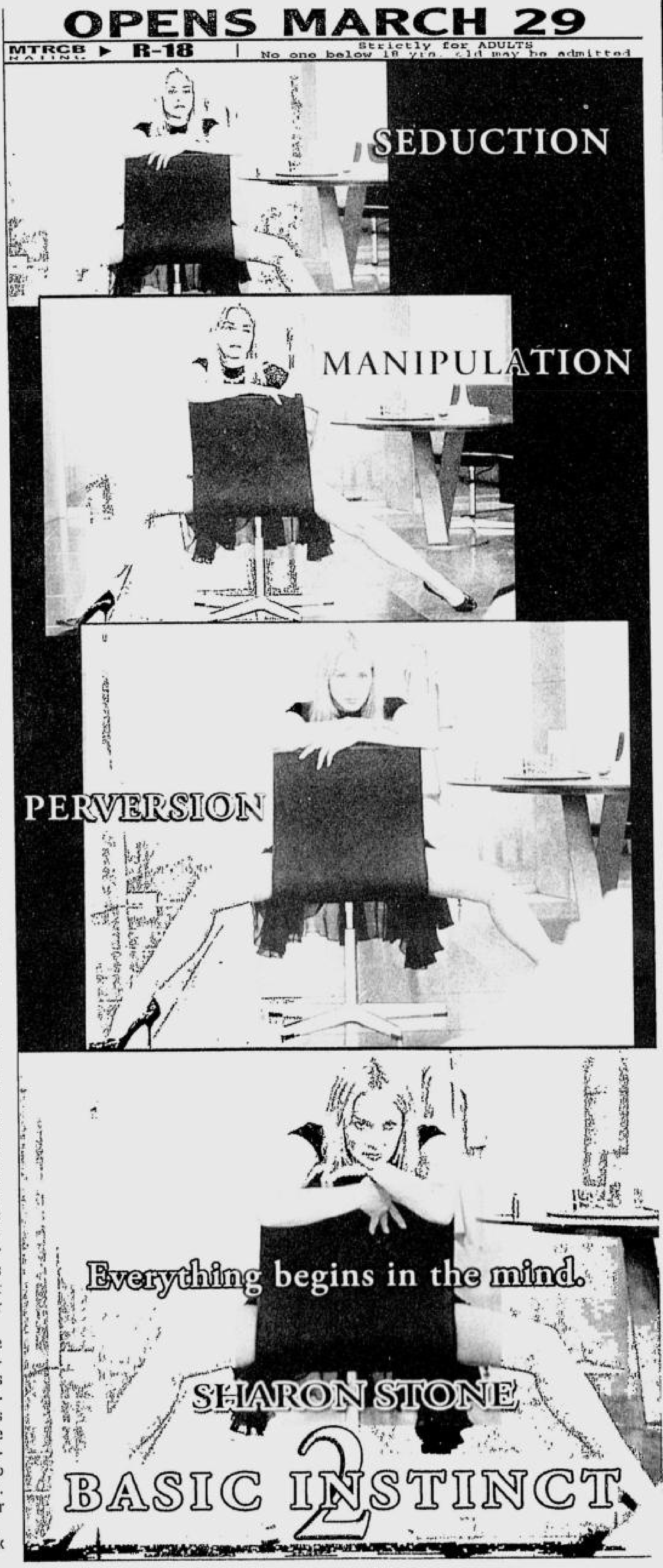
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PODIUM

NANNY McPHEE
11:45 FS / 12:15 MF / 04:35
06:45 / 08:25 LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:40 END
NORTH COUNTRY
12:30 FS / 12:50 MF / 03:30
06:10 / 8:20LFS
08:50 LMF / 11:00 END

SM MEGACINEMA

THE DARK
01:00FS / 01:20 MF
07:00 / 08:030 LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:30 END
V FOR VENDETTA
NANNY McPHEE
RESERVED
SHE'S THE MAN
ULTRAVIOLET
FEARLESS
SHAGGY DOG
16 BLOCKS
FINAL DESTINATION 3
GLORY ROAD
NORTH COUNTRY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

NANNY McPHEE
GLORY ROAD
NORTH COUNTRY
RESERVED
FINAL DESTINATION 3
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V FOR VENDETTA
ULTRAVIOLET

SM CITY DASMARINAS

THE DARK
UNDERCLASS MAN
SHAGGY DOG
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

16 BLOCKS
HOUSE OF FURY
THE DARK
V FOR VENDETTA
GLORY ROAD
SHE'S THE MAN
ULTRAVIOLET
NANNY McPHEE
FEARLESS
FINAL DESTINATION 3
RESERVED
RESERVED

SM CITY STA. MESA

ULTRAVIOLET
V FOR VENDETTA
NANNY McPHEE
FINAL DESTINATION 3
SHE'S THE MAN
FEARLESS
GLORY ROAD
16 BLOCKS
NORTH COUNTRY
SHAGGY DOG

SM CITY BICUTAN

ULTRAVIOLET
HOUSE OF FURY
THE DARK
V FOR VENDETTA

SM CITY SAN LAZARO

SHE'S THE MAN
ULTRAVIOLET
V FOR VENDETTA
FINAL DESTINATION 3
GLORY ROAD
NANNY McPHEE

SM CITY MANILA

GLORY ROAD
V FOR VENDETTA
SHE'S THE MAN
ULTRAVIOLET
NANNY McPHEE
16 BLOCKS
11:00FS / 01:10 MF
03:15 / 05:20
07: 25 / 09:10 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:15 END
SHAGGY DOG
FEARLESS
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
FINAL DESTINATION 3
THE DARK
NORTH COUNTRY

SM CITY SOUTHMALL

ULTRAVIOLET
16 BLOCKS
NORTH COUNTRY
V FOR VENDETTA
NANNY McPHEE
GLORY ROAD
SHE'S THE MAN
FINAL DESTINATION 3
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SHAGGY DOG
FINAL DESTINATION 3
HOUSE OF FURY
GLORY ROAD

SM CITY SUCAT

HOUSE OF FURY
ULTRAVIOLET
V FOR VENDETTA
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SHAGGY DOG
THE DARK
V FOR VENDETTA

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HOUSE OF FURY
SHAGGY DOG
THE DARK

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THE DARK
FEARLESS
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V FOR VENDETTA
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SHE'S THE MAN
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BREAKING NEWS

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CASANOVA
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16 BLOCKS

SM CITY PAMPANGA

SYRIANA
SHAGGY DOG
FINAL DESTINATION 3
V FOR VENDETTA
THE DARK
16 BLOCKS

SM CITY LUCENA

FEARLESS
SHAGGY DOG
SYRIANA
AEON FLUX

SM CITY MOLINO

SHAGGY DOG
HOUSE OF FURY
V FOR VENDETTA
CRY WOLF

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU

SYRIANA
10:50FS / 11:10 MF
01:45 / 04:20
06: 55 / 09:05 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:40 END
CASANOVA
10:50FS / 11:00 MF
01:06 / 03:12 / 05:18
07:24 / 09:15 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:20 END
V FOR VENDETTA
11:15FS / 11:30 MF
02:00 / 04:30
07:00 / 09:15 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:45 END
LAST HOLIDAY
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
FEARLESS
NEW WORLD
HOUSE OF FURY

SM CITY ILOILO

FEARLESS
RESERVED
SYRIANA
CRY WOLF
V FOR VENDETTA
SHAGGY DOG
RESERVED
PRIDE & PREJUDICE

SM CITY DAVAO

BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
GOAL
V FOR VENDETTA
FINAL DESTINATION 3
PRIDE & PREJUDICE
NEW WORLD

SM CITY CAGAYAN

NEW WORLD
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
16 BLOCKS
YOUR'S MINE & OURS

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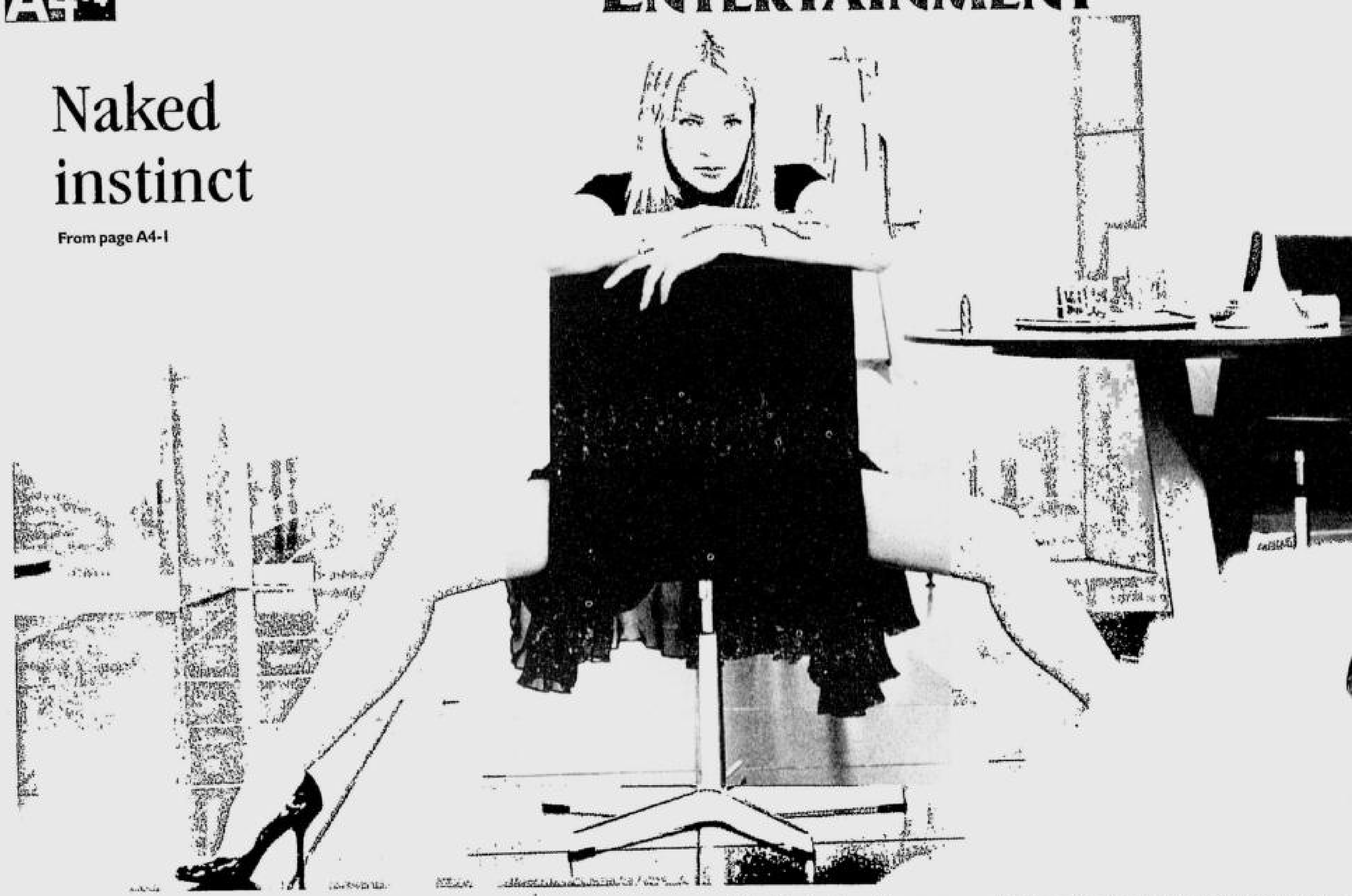
Naked instinct

From page A4-1



> 'The characters that you play, you take and carry with you—in different ways. Some you carry with joy; some you carry in terrible pain. Catherine Tramell is not a happy trip'

BASIC INSTINCT 2

RATED R-18
Strictly for Mature Audiences Only
Violators will be Prosecuted

Sharon Stone is the sexy and seductive novelist Catherine Tramell in "Basic Instinct 2".

Sharon Stone revisits one of the most erotic films ever to come out of Hollywood, reprising the role of Catherine Tramell - the lethal seductress who had jaws dropping with that famous 'leg crossing' scene in *"Basic Instinct"*.

She picks up her role of *Catherine Tramell* - the novelist with a penchant for ice-picks - and launched her A-list career with the help of some panty-less leg-crossing.

The sequel will see the action moving from San Francisco to London, where David Morrissey will play *Dr. Andrew Glass*, a criminal psychologist who is appointed by Scotland Yard to evaluate her and not surprisingly falls under her spell.

Basic Instinct 2 was approved without cuts by the MTRCB and rated R-18 (strictly for mature audience only) .Violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. ADVT.

into the nocturnal life of animals and became very feral. She probably became really good at it but missed something about [playing] the psychological game with people.

So she probably moved to Germany because she thought there would be an unusual shift in the mentality of people after the war, with all the effects on sociological and psychological behavior. She thought Germany might be fascinating in that sense. So she went there and it wasn't fascinating (laughter).

So maybe then she moved to London because London has become what Paris used to be. It has all this metropolitan social life happening—restaurants, clubs. The psychiatrist office has become the disco of before, that intriguing, provocative mind game place.

I thought the first "Basic Instinct" was about survival; this second one is about sociological corruption where people get other people to do their shadow self, bring out the bad in them and then step back and say, "I didn't do anything."

The scandal over the first film was mainly over the famous scene where you crossed your legs. Can you remember people's reactions?

My mother addressed this the best of anyone. My family lives in a small town. When the movie came out, the phone was ringing off the hook. People were calling with all kinds of questions—"How do you feel about your daughter playing a bisexual?" "How do you feel about your daughter being naked?" "How do you feel about people seeing up your daughter's dress?" My mother would calmly answer the phone and say, "You know, I am much more concerned about my daughter playing a sociopathic killer but thank you for calling (laughter). My mother had the good sense to know what really was the controversial element of the film. There are scandalous things again in the second film. I wouldn't reveal them... [but] there's something very interesting in the first four minutes.

Can you tell us a little bit about this opening scene?

I have to say I risked my life for those first four minutes of the film—which took four and a half days to shoot. It was probably the scariest and the most complex, difficult thing that I've done in making a film. Emotionally, it was also complicated because it pushed me. The second piece of it was very dangerous. We had nightmares.

The morning after we finished shooting that, I tried to get ready for work but I broke down. I was sobbing in the bathtub from all that stress. I thought, I'm going to be late for work; I can't get it together. **Paulette** (her assistant) came over and she was like, you can do it, you can do it. She helped me get into my clothes. I got down to the car and the driver said there was a terrorist attack and it was just too much. I went back upstairs and moved the baby in the back of the apartment. When they thought it was okay to go out so we drove to work. When we got there, we couldn't get home. It just felt like it was never going to end.

To some people, that famous leg-crossing scene represented your character's sexual empowerment. Do you agree?

I can't say there's a precise moment of sexual empowerment for Catherine Tramell. There was a shock of that behavior coming from a woman who was very strong. I certainly don't think I would advise women that this is an appropriate way to be empowered as a woman. Women have so much to offer.

Many actors were considered for the role of Dr. Michael Glass. What made you go for David Morrissey instead of Benjamin Bratt who was reportedly up for that role?

First, I'd like to say that I love working with **Benjamin Bratt**. He's a superbly talented and gifted actor. That whole scandal was so inappropriate, so wrong and so hurtful. I feel very badly about that because I would love to make another movie with Ben. When Ben was being mentioned for the movie, someone suggested changing the plot to make the movie another detective film like the original one so that Ben would be right for the part. I said I didn't want to make the same "Basic Instinct" again. That is why we didn't cast Ben; we didn't think he would be able to play a 40- to 45-year-old English psychiatrist. I was really appalled that his reputation and my appreciation for him as a fine artist were degraded in public.

Second, Michael (**Caton-Jones**, director) met with many actors that he thought were terrific. There was one English actor who I thought was good but he was slightly young, about 36. When the choices got narrowed down in the end, we saw four English actors and one American actor who had played an Englishman. They were all fantastic. In fact, one of them ended up playing another part in the movie.

When our guy (**David Morrissey**) walked into the room, even before he read, we just knew it was him. Casting is a lot like falling for somebody. You just know when the person walks into the room. It was like when I saw **Russell** (**Crowe**) for the first time. I just knew. Like I knew **Leo** (**DiCaprio**) was going to be a big star. You just know when you see someone. David is really funny, smart and yet he's kind of tricky. You can't quite pin him down. He's very elusive and that makes him very intriguing.

Just for fun, is there any part of Catherine Tramell in Sharon Stone?

I hope not (laughter). When I did that first movie, I was terrified to play her. It was so intense... [but] it taught me a lot of things about people and human nature. In the press junket for that first movie, the reporters [mostly] sat away from me. They were afraid of me. I had never experienced that before. It's like after I showed the movie to my friends, no one would go in the bathroom with me. That was so weird.

It was interesting to realize that I could create a character that would evoke such a powerful and unnerving response. The characters that you [play, you] take and carry with you—in different ways. Some you carry with joy; some you carry in terrible pain. Catherine is not a happy trip. Playing her is painful and heavy. It burns a part of you.

How has your perspective on fame and celebrity changed since "Basic Instinct"?

I must tell you this story, [though] my friend **Sylvester Stallone** says this the best of anyone. I first got famous when I made the first movie. It's very peculiar to be famous because you don't know what's going to happen to you. Sly has always said fame is like VD. Everybody wants to f--k you until they see what they get (laughter). That's pretty true because I don't think anybody has any idea what it is until it happens to them. There is a book that's been written about it called "The Frenzy of the Renowned." It's almost like a textbook. It was helpful to me.

It is surprising that you came down so hard on journalists especially since your ex-husband is a newspaper editor.

I've seen too much of people behaving inappropriately. I call on the higher standard of people to behave appropriately. I think you know [what I mean]. You see people stalking [show biz] folks who are out with their children. You see people behaving really inappropriately and saying things that just aren't true. I have made a decision to not accept that anymore.

Are you talking only about the tabloid reporters?

No, I am talking about anyone who chooses not to have ethics and integrity in his path.

Since we last saw you, you have adopted another baby. How has motherhood changed you?

I have less hair (laughter).

Now that you are a single parent...?

...I have more sense. It's just very easy to set priorities. Any parent knows it's like an instant thing. Anybody who gets you has to get your kids. If they don't get your kids, they are ...see ya, bye. It's very simple.

WITH co-star David Morrissey

Does that apply in your choice of guys, too?

Absolutely. You can't like me and not like the kids. It's like a package deal. I like being a single mother. I found that my life is much fuller. My family has a huge part in raising my children. My very close friends are the aunts, uncles and godparents. It's a very warm and loving environment. My kids are surrounded with love. I'm very happy to be living back in LA, close to my family. My parents are just over the moon. They look 10 years younger.

What's it like in Sharon Stone's household, with your three sons?

I used to have this very neat house. Now my house looks like Toys 'R Us blew up in the living room (laughter). Fortunately, my kids don't color the walls much. They're really good kids. You just try to be the best parent you can. Then you cry and think, no, you're not and how could you possibly be? Because I don't think anybody ever thinks that they can keep up with the demands of parenthood and the world the way that it is. Just try.

Do you plan to add a little girl to the family?

I don't think so. I think I will always be the mother of boys (laughter).

You are famous, intelligent and beautiful. Do you feel sometimes that you are overqualified to be someone's mate?

Yes (laughing).

What do you do about it?

It has taken me a long time not to feel like, what's wrong with me? It's very complicated. It has been an interesting journey for me to find an appropriate partner. I finally got into the part where I recognize that I am not looking anymore. That's the first step. The next part is to recognize that I'm a special person and I deserve someone special. My children are wonderful and we deserve to be treasured and loved. We deserve someone who's normal, someone who's going to show up with the quart of milk and some bagels and the newspaper. I suspect that's going to take someone with a really solid spiritual core, someone who's centered, has his feet on the ground. I'm open to that. I'm ready for that.

You have good genes. Wouldn't you like to pass them on?

I'm 47 and I don't have the partner that allows me to do that so I believe that adoption is God's other big birth canal. I love adoption. I'm very supportive of it. For me, it's an honor and a pleasure. My family—including my parents—feels the same way.

Is Sharon Stone a strict mom?

I'm strict about certain things. I couldn't care less about other things. [For example] I think you have to take a bath every day, but if you're having a day when it really gives you the creeps, you get a day off from the bath. You do not get to be mean. You do not get to be unkind. You don't talk back to your mother. You put your stuff away because you respect yourself and others. There are certain boundaries about having a good heart and being respectful that don't change.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

Partial prizes for winners of Cinemanila

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

MANILA City HALL HAS RELEASED PARTIAL cash prizes for the second and third prize winners in the local digital competition of the Cinemanila International Film Festival.

The news was confirmed by Dino Nable, city administrator, and Arles Jimenez, officer in charge of the Tourism and Cultural Affairs Bureau of the city of Manila, major sponsor of the event.

Nable told INQUIRER Entertainment the amounts released on Thursday: "For the second prize winner, P250,000 and for the third placer, P150,000."

At the awards night last October, it was announced that second placer Mes de Guzman (for "Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong") would receive P1 million and third placer Briccio Santos (for "Ala Verde, Ala Pobre"), P750,000.

"Another release is being programmed for next week," said Nable.

The amount (totaling P400,000) allocated to the second and third prize winners was sourced from the P1 million-grant that city hall had received from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts last December, Jimenez explained.

Next week

The rest of the cash prizes, Nable added, will be provided by the Office of the President.

This was verified by Jimenez. "We're working on the full payments. Hopefully, we can release them by next week because we can get additional funding from Malacañang."

On Friday, Jimenez related that winners De Guzman and Santos had yet to collect their partial prizes. "But city hall has advised them that the money was already available."

In an earlier interview, Jimenez said that city hall had prioritized the second and third prize winners. "We can give the first prize at a later date." Asked again last Friday about the first placer's cash prize, Jimenez responded: "*Sila na ang nag-uusap tungkol do'n kasi* Viva Films *naman 'yon*. [They're the ones discussing it because it was produced by Viva Films.]" By "they," he explained that he meant Cinemanila organizers and producer Viva Films. Auraeus Solito's "Tuli," first place winner, was set to receive P1.5 million.

According to Jimenez, the competition rules stated that 70 percent of the cash prize would go to the producer and 30 percent to the director. "Since De Guzman and Santos were the producer and director of their movies, they would receive the full amount."

BO SANCHEZ

'Bulong' invites 'Kerygma'

"KERYGMA TV," A Catholic program on RPN-9, airs every Wednesday at 11:30 p.m.

The half-hour show is hosted by lay preacher and best-selling author Bo Sanchez, and Kerygma magazine editor Rissa B. Singson.

The show was spun off from the monthly publication, an inspirational magazine that has been around for 16 years.

On Tuesday, Bo and Rissa will discuss "Knowing How Blessed You Are" at the "Bulong Pulungan" lunch forum of Women in Media, at the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

With "Kerygma TV," Bo and Rissa are hoping to reach more people with inspiring messages via such portions as "You Create Your Life," "Loving the Master," and "Recreate your Relationship."

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4 V FOR VENDETTA 1:20 4:10 7:00, 9:50
5 ULTRAVIOLET 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
6 SHE'S THE MAN 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
7 CO-ED SCANDAL 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
8 CASANOVA 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
9 HOSTEL 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
10 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

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7 GLORY ROAD 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

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1 HOUSE OF FURY 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 NANNY MCPHEE 11.45 2.05 4:25 6:45 9:05
3 SHE'S THE MAN 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00
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7 GLORY ROAD 1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
8 ULTRAVIOLET 12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

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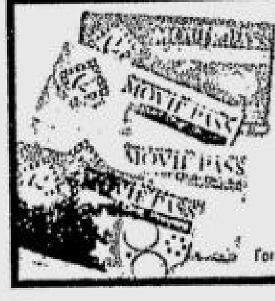

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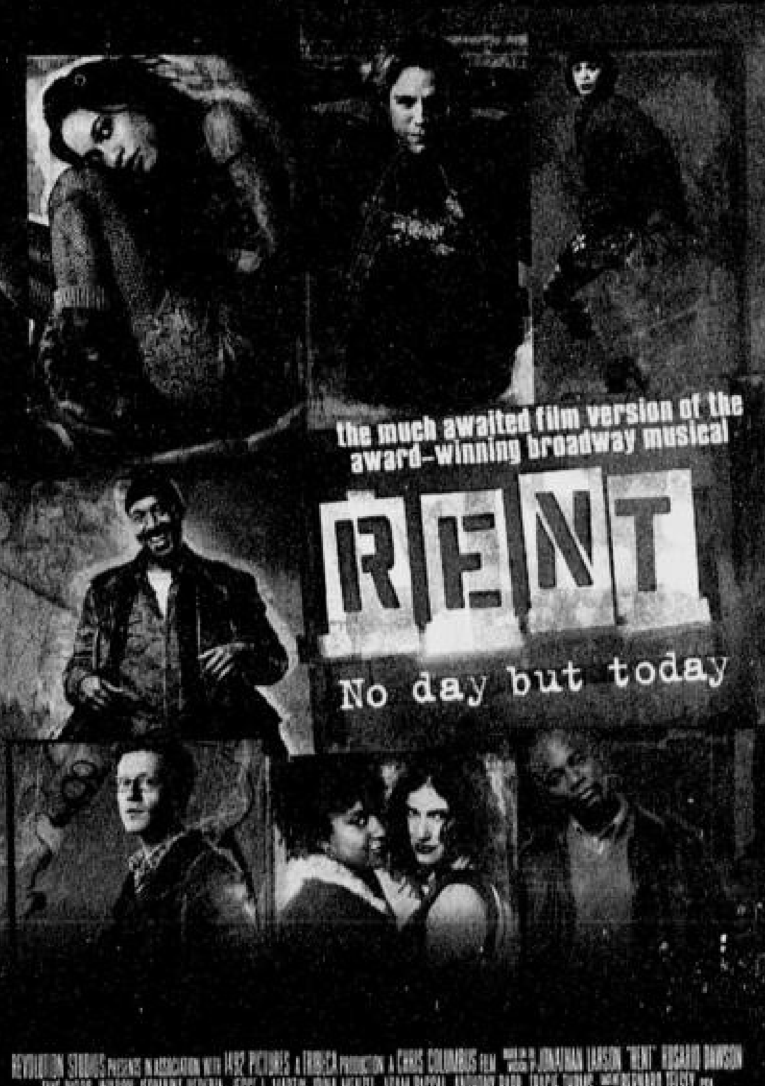

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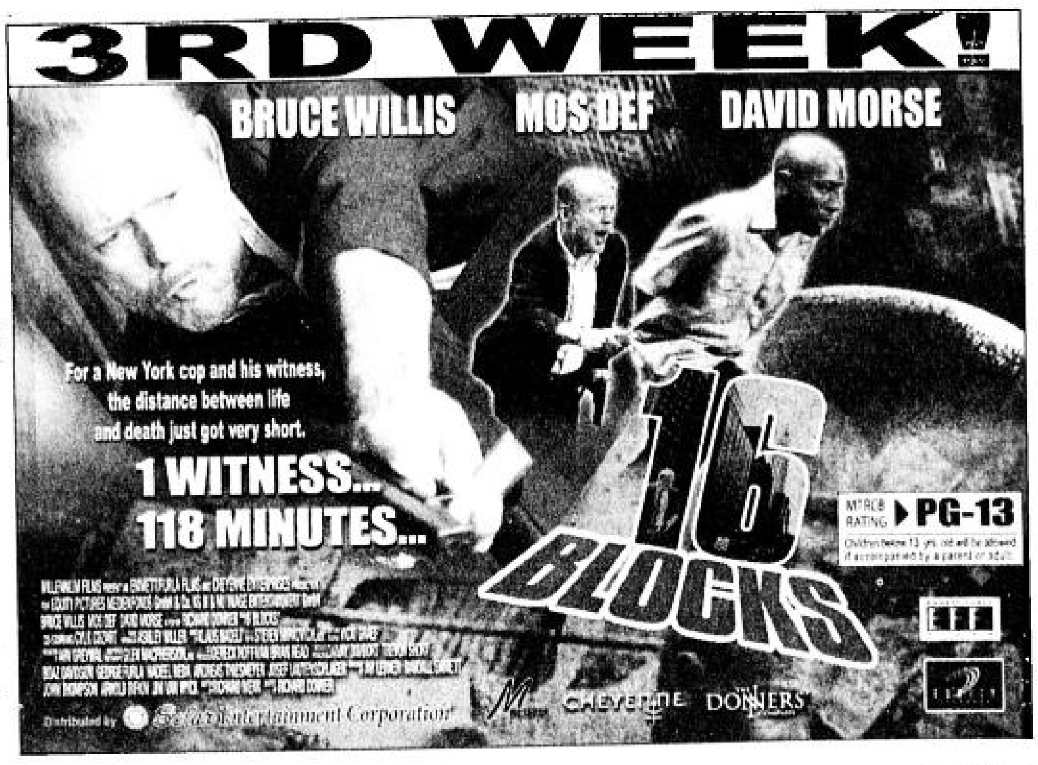
'PBB' graduates fail to pass muster in new program



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DONNERS

AFTER MAKING IDENTIFIABLE PERSONALITIES out of the first batch of "housemates" on its "Pinoy Big Brother" show, Channel 2 has whipped up another program for them, titled "Gudtaym." This time around, the former "housemates" are being presented, not as private individuals, but as star performers.

Along with main host **Vhong Navarro**, they preside over different portions or sometimes compete as contestants. As co-hosts, however, the "PBB" graduates often fail to measure up to accepted levels of performance.

Many of them don't even know how to recite read their spiels from "idiot boards" without looking like they're obviously reading. The ability to read spiels in a natural manner is a basic requirement for on-cam TV people, so the co-hosts' ineptness in this regard is a sorry sight to behold.

In the first game we caught on the show recently, the "PBB" graduates again failed to pass muster as charades "signers" and "interpreters." Most of the time, they couldn't guess the sentences that were "signed," and the first portion ended up as a dud.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Why should viewers be used as guinea pigs during this on-cam training process?

The second portion came off better, with Vhong using a lightweight dummy to show teams of two men each how to execute tricky or funny moves. The teams gamely tried to imitate what Vhong and his dummy did, and some humorous moments ensued.

Next, four swains competed with each other in making their first dates with a pretty former housemate memorable. Their gimmicks tended to be far-out, but that was for comic effect. What *didn't* come off well was the participants' performances, which were strained or trying-hard.

Another portion pitted two groups of sexy girls against each other on point of seductive poses, dancing or erotic appeal. The two groups were given the same moves to execute, and a tie was declared by a panel of judges, The decision was perplexing, because the Baywalk Bodies were clearly better and sexier than the Bora Girls.

In general, the show missed more than it scored. It was obvious that the "PBB" graduates were no match for the more experienced and talented likes of Vhong Navarro.

We can expect the "PBB" graduates to improve in the coming weeks, but why should the show's viewers be used as guinea pigs during this on-cam training process?

It's a good thing that the show is giving new performers a break on TV, but it should be more selective in its choice of "talents" to help. Deserving talents should be boosted, but undeserving ones should be dropped. There are more than enough mediocre "talents" on local TV as it is . . .

'International Sub Rescue'

AT 8 a.m. today, the Discovery Channel telecasts "International Sub Rescue: Special Investigation," a documentary that tells the true story behind the rescue of a Russian mini-sub trapped 625 feet underwater.

With exclusive access to the team that carried out the rescue and dramatic underwater footage of the attempt itself, Discovery Channel reveals the cutting-edge science and white-knuckle human drama behind the extraordinary technological feat.

Feedback

FROM **Bebeng (Isabel) Sevilla Soriano**: "I most completely agree with you on the Oscars, those three ('Crash,' **Clooney** and **Stewart**) were the only ones I sought during the replay (of course, including the rehearsed stint of **Meryl Streep**). Thanks for giving me a chance to applaud myself!"

'Lambanog'

PAOLO **Herras**' "Lambanog" premiered at the UP Film Institute last March 11. The digital feature tells the intertwined stories of Mark (**Luis Alandy**) and his best friend Eric (**Lauren Novero**) in Los Baños, Laguna. Mark passes by hi sold home and meets Rico (**John Lapus**), the landlord. After Mark buys a bottle of *lambanog* from Maria (**Danica Sotto**) a drinking session ensues, and each character reveals more secrets than he or she intends.

'GamePlan's' new hosts

NOW on its 11th year, "GamePlan" is Philippine TV's longest-running sports magazine show. In keeping with its promise to keep things fresh and exciting, the program recently introduced its new hosts, **Paolo Soler** and **Wowie Meloto**. They went through a grueling four-month search, besting 300 other aspirants.

"GamePlan" airs every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. on Studio 23.

'Martir sa Golgota'

ACTOR-DIRECTOR **Lou Veloso** is looking for a new **Jesus Christ** for his Lenten presentation, "Martir sa Golgota," now on its 18th year. "Martir" is presented free to the public at selected venues from Holy Monday to Black Saturday.

For inquiries on auditions and booking for "Martir sa Golgota," call **Lou** at 0927-3416203 or **Bibsy Carballo** at 7210801.

Feedback

FROM **Nita M. de Guzman**: "In a recent article, you mentioned a wishful thought that there be a local animated film. I would like to inform you and your readers about 'Hoodwinked (The True Story of Little Red Riding Hood).'

"The full-length 3-D animated film started showing nationwide in the United States last Jan. 13, and was No. 1 at the box office for some days. It has earned over $50 million.

"The important thing to point out is that 'Hoodwinked' was done in a studio in Makati by 50 all-Pinoy animators!

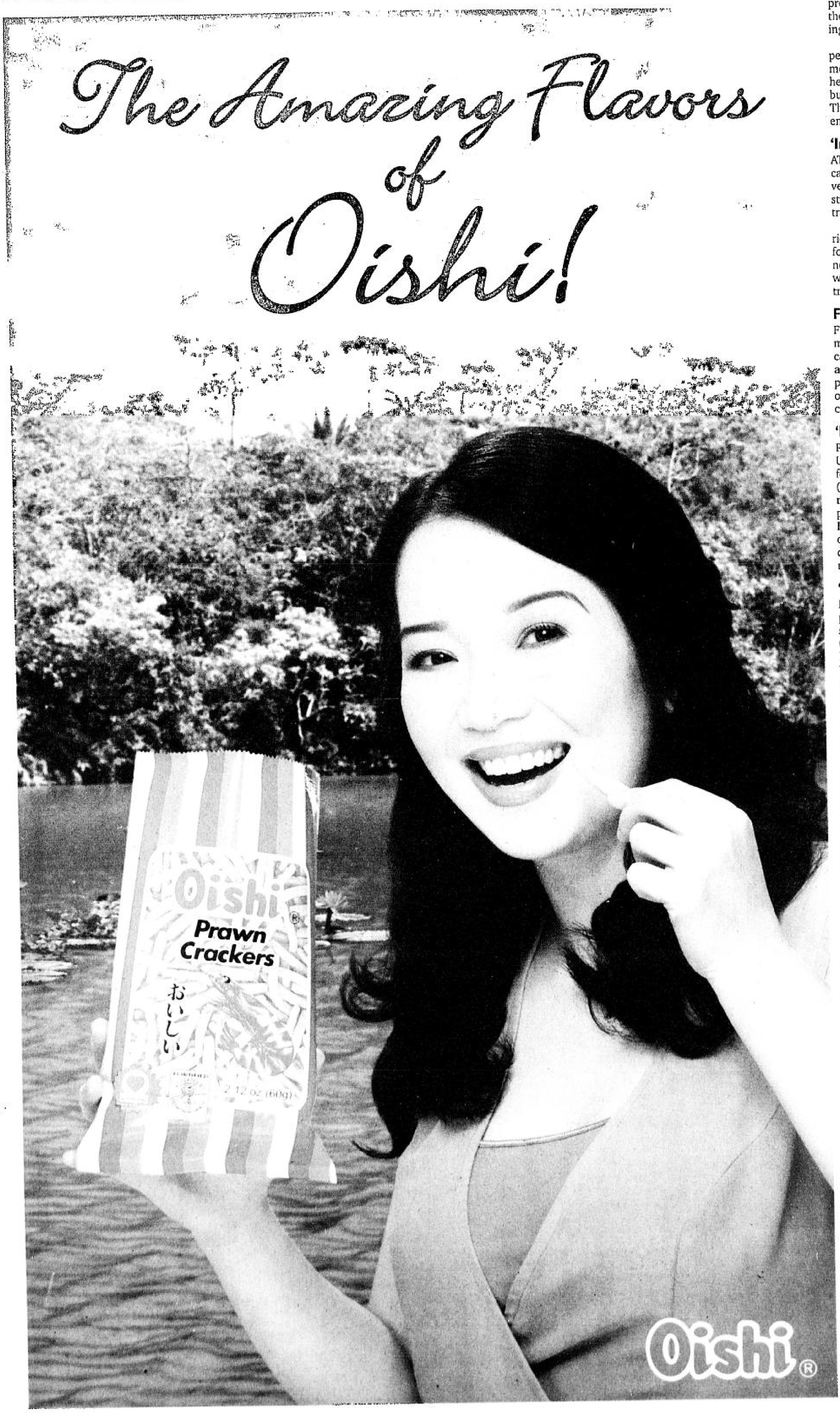
"Hoodwinked" is a 'little' film, very low budget compared to similar films produced by the giants—Pixar, Dreamworks, Walt Disney. It was produced and bankrolled by unknown Kanbar Productions (American) and later picked up for distribution by newly formed Weinstein Co.

"That it should be a hit in the US is a miracle, considering some criticisms hurled at its animation techniques.

"The reviews were mixed. While others found it highly entertaining, some were not exactly encouraging. A few were even condescending of its animation quality—maybe because this was not made by American animators.

"Since my son is one of the 50 animators, I was able to view the film in an exclusive preview last Dec. 17. Yes, there was a bit of bias when we all gave the production a standing ovation at the end of the screening.

"We cheered as the credits rolled—the names were sons, daughters, husbands, wives, relatives, friends. To us, it was a beautifully made movie. I was proud, not only of my son but all of them. It was made by Filipinos."



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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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Setting out into the world.

Blending east and west in a cup of coffee

YOUNG: Put God first and the rest will follow.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

AS THE SON OF AN ENtrepreneurial Chinese family, Hubert Young took the path less traveled. And he is thankful his father, George Sr., who grew General Milling Corp., allowed him to find his own way.

GMC is in the flour business, soybean, feed milling and makes food items like Granny Goose snacks, Homepride pasta and Cafe de Oro.

Young worked briefly for the family business but most of his life he gave vent his entrepreneurial spirit and went into several ventures from furniture making to food.

Young eventually settled into the food business, coffee in particular because "coffee is in my blood" growing up amid the smell of ground coffee in the family factory; and working as a 'coffee grader' in the US. Young is responsible for bringing UCC Coffee into the country. The Philippines is the first franchise holder of the Japanese coffee shop.

FIRST JOB

UCC's success prompted Young to get other brands. He got two from Singapore-Sakae Sushi and Crepes and Cream. In all three brands, Young targets a different market from that served by the restaurant in its country of origin.

Studying in the US and traveling extensively gave Young marketing insights that he used in his current ventures.

When he met with the Japanese owners of UCC in the late 90s for example, Young explained to them "that positioning of the brand in this country will have to be a niche market positioning. This is due to its high cost and quality. People had to be educated to appreciate what good coffee was all about. Thus, the decision to open chic UCC coffee shop venues as our flagship stores . I told them that using this medium we'll be able to educate the consumers what real good coffee is all about."

And he matched this positioning with price tags selling a cup of coffee for P155 to P355. His father told him he was crazy to do this but Young knew his market. He went after the high-end crowd and added just the right touches—using a fancier cup with a higher priced coffee for instance

"This created a status symbol. You don't have to say anything, your cup will say it," Young smiles.

Young worked for Hills Bros. in the United States from 1982 to 1985.

"My training with Hills Bros. coffee in the States gave me a very good insight into the coffee industry. I was trained in all aspects of the coffee business. From commodities trading, coffee cupping (grading of coffee beans), quality assurance, production, logistics, my exposure to the ground coffee manufacturing, instant coffee manufacturing, I was also very passionate about my training in the coffee business and they could sense that when I was interviewed by a panel of 20 at UCC Japan," he says.

It goes without saying Young loves coffee—downing up to six cups a day. His family's food business includes a coffee plantation and a coffee brand—Cafe de Oro. These he believes were the factors that convinced the Japanese principals to allow a franchisee for their coffee shop chain for the first time.

Young decided to go into the coffee business his over one year stay in the United States taking care of his dad who was being treated for cancer.

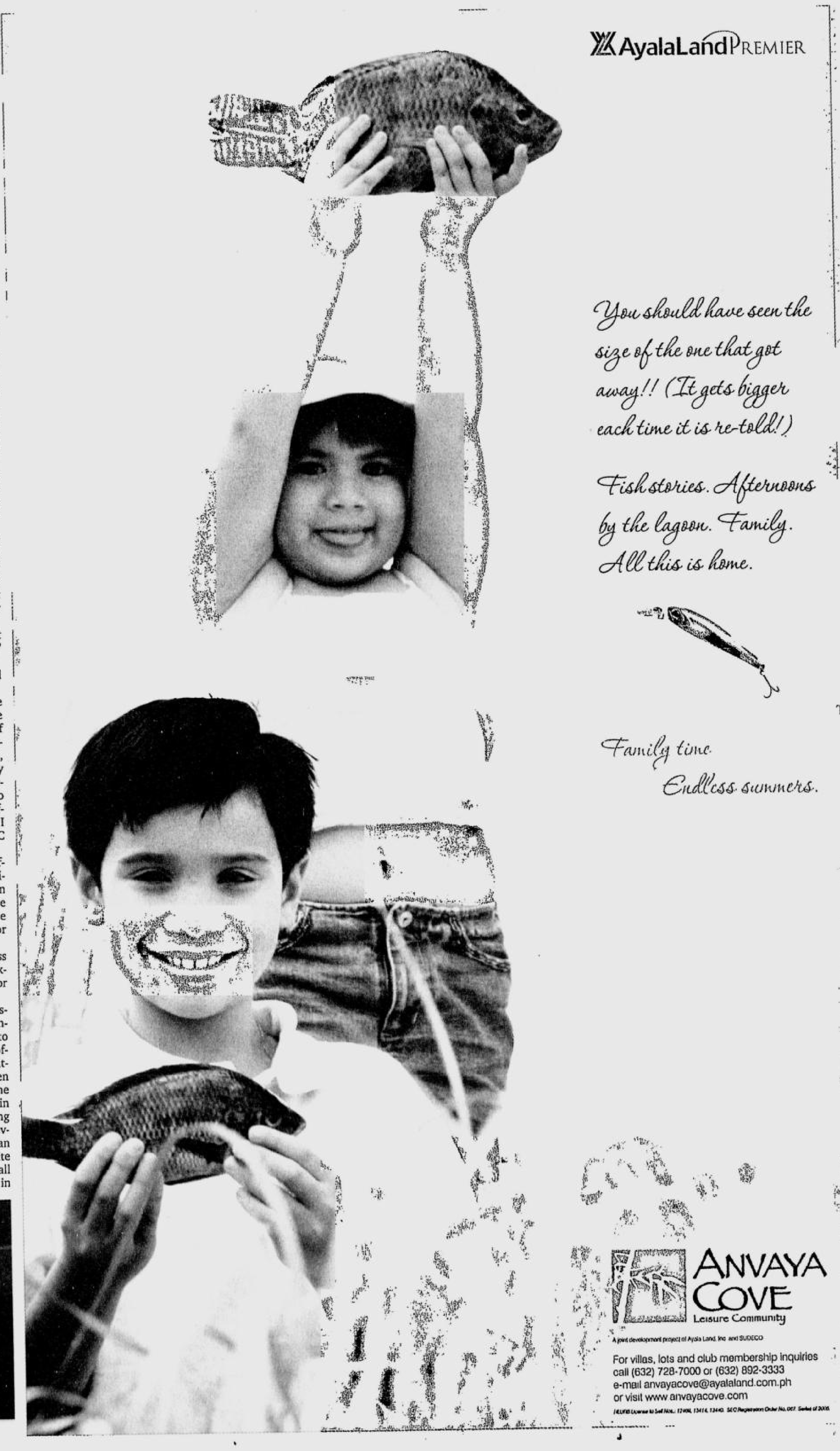
"I stayed in the US from 1998 to 1999 to assist my father who was being treated for cancer. All went well and upon our return to Manila in 1999, I decided to return to the coffee business. You see while I was in the US attending to my father I would have coffee even more than the usual and reminisce about the times I was involved in the coffee business in the '80s. I then said to myself I need to bring in a coffee brand into this country. Unlike everybody else who would seek American brands, I recalled UCC, as this is my favorite brand for the longest time. I decided to call upon my Japanese associate to assist me in setting up an appointment with UCC Coffee Japan. This was in the 2nd quarter of 1999. Came 2000, we opened out first UCC coffee shop."

Young knew there was a following for UCC among Filipinos as during trips to Hong Kong, he would always see Chinese-Filipinos hanging out in the place.

True enough, during opening day in June 2000, a queue had formed outside its first branch in Tomas Morato. UCC Coffee became the "in" after dinner place for party goers, earning it the monicker "the place with ex-

BLENDING/ B2

DAD allowed him to find his own place.



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School readies special children for employment

IN THE MOVIE "I AM SAM," THE OPENING scene depicts Sam, played by actor Sean Penn, busy tidying up sugar packs in a downtown Starbucks outlet. A person with mental retardation, Sam is employed as a coffeehouse assistant who dreams of becoming a full-fledged barista one day, despite his handicap.

AT DIAGEM Packaging Systems Inc. in Las Piñas, the special kids help repack and distribute coffee, creamer and sugar sachets to various canteens, food establishments and retails stores.

The same is true in the film "The Other Sister" where actress Juliette Lewis plays a strong-headed person with mental disability who struggles for independence from her family by trying to live and work on her own.

These scenes are not uncommon in progressive countries like the US where employment opportunities are being opened to people with disabilities, both mental and physical. It is not surprising to find a person with Down Syndrome, for instance, pushing trolleys in the San Francisco airport, or arranging books in the public library, or greeting shoppers in a suburban WalMart. It may have taken many years but in first world countries, the functional among people with mental disabilities have slowly integrated themselves in the workplace and are now being embraced, more than tolerated, by the society.

"That is already the 'ideal' world as far as the Philippine setting is concerned. Here, because there are still millions of abled individuals who are unemployed, giving jobs to the disabled is the least priority of both the government and private employers," laments Gilbert Y. Leonor, president of Maryridge School for Special Children located in BF Homes, Parañaque City.

This however does not dampen the spirits of the people behind Maryridge School. Established in 2000 by classmates in Master's in Entrepreneurship at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Maryridge School initially catered to children of all ages with mental and developmental disabilities.

It has since evolved into a non-stock, non-profit educational institution and a training center for pre-adolescent and adults with special needs with employment and livelihood training as the main thrust.

Himself a parent of a 19-year-old special child, Leonor believes that the functional and trainable special children can be honed into productive individuals given the proper training and job coaching.

"The employment statistics for workers who are retarded is pessimistic, that is the sad truth. But most parents like myself, and professionals in the area of special education remain optimistic about the potential for providing training programs that will lead to meaningful employment," Leonor explains.

The lives of the disabled do not stop at being trained and educated. It signals just the beginning.

Hopeful

Research indicates that with appropriate training, persons with retardation can hold down jobs with a good deal of success as measured by attendance, employer satisfaction, and length of employment.

With the number of the mentally disabled dramatically increasing, it should be noteworthy to find new competitive employment opportunities for them. Given proper training, people with exceptionalities can hold clerical jobs such as typing, word processing, bookkeeping, data processing, etc. Competitive employment is found possible for mild or moderate mentally retarded. It is just a matter of giving them skills specifically suited for an identified position.

Maryridge School's curriculum encourages its students not only to learn academics but also to adapt well to their environment by learning other practical life skills, safety skills, handing money (functional accounting skills), and other vocational skills.

About three years ago, it started its "internship" program where its students who are afflicted with autism, developmental delays, and mental retardation were taken to a packaging company once a week and allowed to work about three hours a day, with close supervision by the teachers. Every Wednesday, the Pre-Voc class (from ages 12 years old and above) would trek to Diagem Packaging Systems Inc. in Las Piñas to experience work. The company repacked and distributed coffee, creamer and sugar sachets to various canteens, food establishments and retails stores.

OVER AT McDonald's in Las Piñas, a set of Maryridge students do work like bussing out and wiping tables, opening the door, greeting diners, sweeping and mopping the floor, or fixing the newspaper.

This school year, Maryridge upped the ante and penetrated the "corporate" world. Twice a week, the students go to work at Maxicare Healthcare in Makati City and immersed themselves in a "real" job for three hours.

"We explained to the company our school's mission and they expressed their readiness to be a partner in helping these children. We are so thankful for companies like Maxicare because they help us achieve our goal not only to train the children for possible employment but also to give them a sense of usefulness in the society," explains Tet Tormon, Maryridge School directress.

Dressed in proper office attire, the students are assigned in various departments like underwriting, claims, administration, human resources, disbursement and accounting. They are tasked to do clerical work like filing, sorting, typing and encoding, with close teacher supervision.

Martin T. Samson, head of Maxicare human resources department, says the arrangement has been beneficial to both their employees and the students. "Ours is a traditional company and we were not aware that we could reach out to children with mental disabilities by welcoming them into our workforce," Samson says.

Justin Justiniano of Maxicare underwriting says the Maryridge students have become a source of joy in his department. "So much so that we look forward to the days that they are here in the office. *Nabago ang routine namin.* And we learn a lot from them, too."

In the classroom, the training is further reinforced with the teachers' use of self-instruction, self-monitoring and self-reinforcement techniques. Learning household chores like cleaning, washing and cooking, going to the supermarket to buy groceries, preparing/cooking snack food, and selling these to their schoolmates and teachers are part of the curriculum.

Over at McDonald's in Las Piñas, another set of Maryridge students "report for work" twice a week to be trained in various fast-food tasks outside of the kitchen such as bussing out and wiping tables, opening the door, greeting diners, sweeping and mopping the floor, or fixing the newspapers.

"People would look at them but they eventually understand that these are people with special needs and should be treated with extra understanding," says branch manager Junei Ortega.

Other companies like the Ricky Reyes chain of salons have also signified their interest to help with the program of Maryridge School.

Plans to place its students in the actual workplace are also in the offing.

Innovative transition program

While sheltered workshops remain to be the common practice in training children with disabilities for more productive tasks, innovative transition programs such as what Maryridge School is doing is paving the way for more employers, and the society in general, to take a more favorable attitude toward hiring workers who are mentally retarded.

Competitive employment is defined as working at 20 hours per week in an integrated work setting in which most of the workers are abled. In the Philippines, sheltered workshops remain the most common work environment for adults who are retarded. The workshops are oftentimes located within the premises of schools and are supervised by the teachers and the school staff. In sheltered workshops, the disabled are mostly trained in skills for handicraft, woodworking, cooking, food preparation, arts, crafts, etc. These skills are put to actual use and the workers are usually paid per piece. The end products are then sold.

"Our program is going beyond the sheltered workshop. It may even be labeled as ambitious, or daring, but this is one of the ways to make persons with mental retardation achieve a level of independence in community living and employment that were never thought possible," Leonor says.

It goes without saying that every parent would like to see their children with special needs become independent.

"It is our wish to see them fend for themselves, much more be accepted by 'normal' people. This is the best way to start that journey," Leonor adds.

(Maryridge School is located at 64 F. Cruz St., BF Homes, Parañaque. It accepts children with special needs, from 12 years old and above. For inquiries, call 829-1871 or 09175208313.)

THREE P&G FIRMS TOP TAXPAYERS. Three Procter & Gamble companies have emerged among Makati City's top corporate taxpayers in their respective revenue districts. These are P&G Distributing Phils Inc. and P&G International Operations in Pte. Ltd. in East Makati and P&G Asia Pte Ltd. in North Makati. The awards were given during the launching of the Bureau of Internal Revenue's 2006 tax campaign. Photo shows Jesse C. Teo, P&G's finance manager receiving the award from Finance Secretary Margarito Teves. Looking on are (from left) assistant regional director Nieva Guerrero, regional district officer Mahinardo Mailing and regional director Nelson M. Aspe.

BAHAY ENTREPINOY

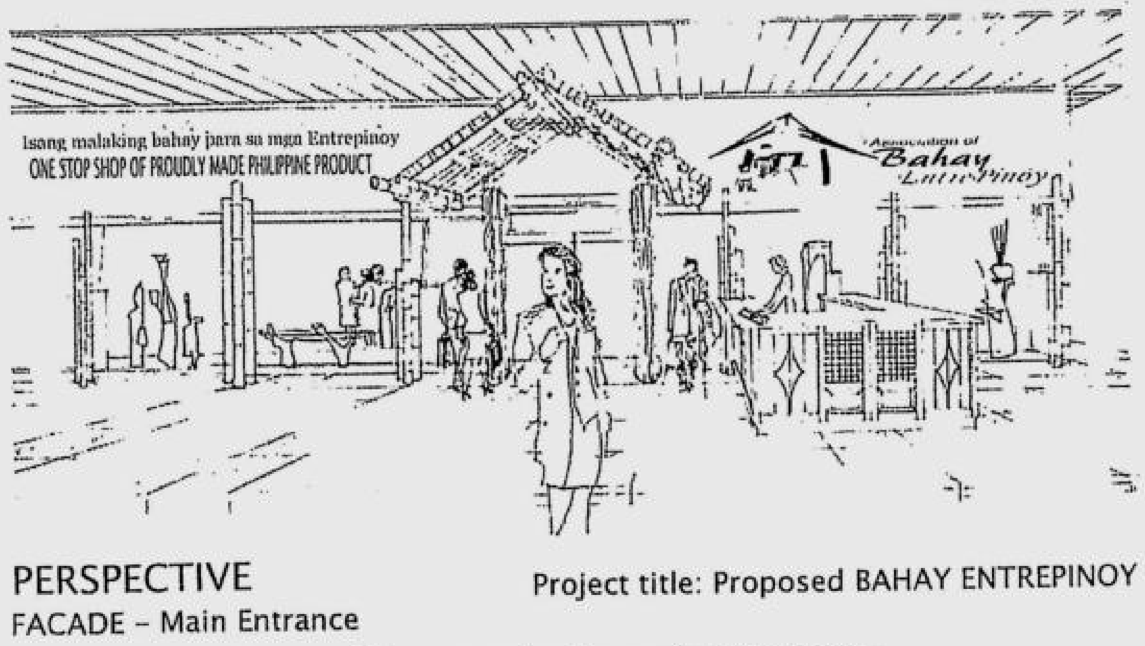
One-stop shop of Philippine- made products

By Desiree T. Segovia
Contributor

WITH OVER 80 PERCENT COMPRISING the Philippine business sector, micro and small entrepreneurs still grope around trying to look for their spot in the economy. Many entrepreneurs introduce new and innovative products but eventually end up losing to imported products.

To help make their products known, entrepreneurs go through training and programs to fortify their businesses. Little attention however is being given to the marketing side: how to promote the product, how to place the product in the right venue to be seen by the right people, and how to form relationships with

ONE-STOP/ B3


Isang malaking bahay para sa mga Entrepinoy
ONE STOP SHOP OF PROUDLY MADE PHILIPPINE PRODUCT
Bahay Entrepinoy
PERSPECTIVE
FACADE – Main Entrance
Project title: Proposed BAHAY ENTREPINOY

BY MAY the center will open and showcase goods and wares of small businesses.

Blending east and west in a cup of coffee

From page B1

pensive coffee."

But there were growing pains. Young says his office used to be in the trunk of his car. People had to be oriented about a Japanese coffee shop.

"When we first opened our shop at Tomas Morato, we had a difficult time introducing a coffee shop that was fine dining. Everyone was used to self service type coffee shops and would walk to the bar counter to order. We always had to bring the menu and guide them to their tables and let them sit, relax and order. Pretty soon, people got the feel of what we were all about.

"Also, in the beginning customers would give us a stare when we greeted them 'Irashaimase' as they enter our shop. They would say 'What's this, a Japanese resto? We would say this is a Japanese coffee shop. Soon everyone got the message."

But all these did not deter Young who was used to being a one-man entrepreneur. After finishing college in the US, he worked for Hills Bros., which GMC used to have a tie up with. After three years, he felt he had to work for the family company. But he could only stay for nine months.

Back to the US, he acquired a small furniture firm, with capital lent by his father.

"I had to search what business opportunities were there and what I could go into yet bring me back to my roots here in the Philippines. When I found the furniture business which had components using materials here in the Philippines I decided this was a good business to go into. I did this from 1987 till 1993."

Young says he would supervise the production, do the deliveries, join trade shows—all by himself. He was exhausted after six years and returned to Manila.

"I decided to settle here with my family. I went into the importation and food distribution business. I did this until 1997," he recalls.

Although he is not involved in the family business, Young says his brothers are shareholders in his food businesses under the name Aji-No-Chinmi Co. Inc.

He says he owes his father the freedom to choose what he would like to do with his life. He remembers the lessons taught him as a young child.

"My parents were conservative yet modern. They always wanted us to have a good education and learn from both worlds " the east and the west" I recall my father always saying "Not everything you will see and learn is good and practical. Learn the good things of the East, learn the good things from the West. Put them together and be a better person." My parents would always remind us to keep a good name, build credibility, and preserve the good values taught at home."

Values were emphasized while growing up. But he laments these values have changed.

"Values of people today are no longer the same values that families treasure during my father's generation. The most important are the values at home because without the good values at home nothing will balance the world outside. Later on, I added something else into my daily life. "Put God first, and the rest will follow."

Weaving business rises after fall from meningo scare

FOR OVER over P300 a yard, this fabric is often used to design Cordillera-inspired dresses. PHOTOS BY VINCENT CABREZA

THE WEAVING factory makes colorful bags, jute placemats, and intrivately woven wall hangings.

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—LAST YEAR, THE city was hit by the meningococcemia scare and the tourism industry was brought down to its knees.

The Easter Weaving Room (EWR) here was among the establishments that counted the mosquitoes that flitted instead of tourists who came in.

"We were really hit hard. Sixty percent of our buyers were walk-in customers," Virginia Doligas, EWR general manager, said.

"But we allowed the crisis to pass and decided that we should prosper with or without tourists," she says.

With aggressive marketing and innovative ideas, EWR is back in the weave.

Moving away from its trademark traditional Cordillera weave, EWR's newest products incorporated natural cotton and other fiber for its table runners.

One of these, a combination of natural cotton and raffia grass, is a hit among Metro Manila visitors, Doligas says.

Another new product has natural cotton and jute in a modern style. Both of these runners sell for P240.

Doligas also related how a French designer whom she knew only as Tyler came to EWR two years ago and sketched a design that he said would be a hit.

True enough, the Tyler line of runners has become a favorite among tourists.

Doligas says they have strengthened EWR's export business. EWR has sold 10,000 bags and wallets to a buyer in Australia.

A buyer in Saudi Arabia also bought about 12,000 wall hangings or tapestries last year and sewed them into seat covers.

"I believe that this is a hit in the Middle East," Doligas says.

EWR is now exporting to Japan and several European countries. Almy, the biggest Catholic supply store in the United States, is EWR's leading importer of priest stoles and vestments.

This is a big thing, considering that EWR is an Episcopalian business. It is owned by the Philippine Episcopalian Church (PEC) and 20 percent of its earnings go to the church.

EWR has not forgotten its local market and has renegotiated with SM City Baguio for the sale of its products. Several top hotels have also ordered its products.

Since tourism in the city has been revived, EWR has also renovated its weaving room in Pinsao here to allow more displays.

Aside from their products, EWR is also selling traditional Baguio products like woodcarvings. Crafts from other parts of the country are also being sold here.

The EWR was established in 1908, two years after Easter School started operating, to give Igorot girls a chance to have a Home Economics class and earn on the side.

Its products were the g-strings for the boys and native skirts for the girls. The weavers were also taught to weave table runners and place mats for Americans.

In time, EWR became a popular tourist attraction in the 1930s. Then World War II came and the EWR factory was bombed.

In 1948, all the looms were destroyed but they found a box of yarn among the rubble.

"This became the basis of the revival of Easter Weaving Room," Doligas said.

Now, EWR is producing bed covers, rugs, lamp shades, wall hangings, ladies shoes, desk pads, pen holders, eyeglass cases, telephone pads, book markers, vests, coats, jackets, hats, slippers, clog sandals.

Its line also boasts of belts, neckties, skirts, blouses, mufflers, swaggers, stockings, hats, coaster napkins and many more.

GOLDEN AGE. This Cordillera weaver uses antiquated technology to produce marvels that are appreciated today.

The traditional weave patterns like colibangbang (butterfly), pagawa, cuabao (zigzag), tiktiko (diamond), kinen-ew (diamond and pestle), sinanbituin (starlight), bileg (triangle) and paracelis (stripes) are still used, as well as the modern styles (ikat).

EWR has 50 weavers working at the establishment's basement. Tourists who visit the EWR at Pinsao converse with these weavers who are women mostly from Bontoc. Mt. Province.

Their ages range from 25 to 45 years. Some of the weavers have had children who graduated at Easter School and are now professionals.

Doligas said if they have young applicants who have not yet finished school, they send them to school as well.

But a lesson these young girls can learn from EWR is that resilience can be good business sense.

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One-stop shop of proudly RP made …

From page B2

other enterprises that would help expand the linkages of the business. These are the basic issues necessary for any enterprise.

The Association of Bahay EntrePinoy, helps in this area.

The Association of Bahay EntrePinoy (ABE) is a group of "pro-active" micro and small entrepreneurs whose main thrust is the upliftment of their enterprises through unifying marketing activities to reach enterprise sustainability and growth, global competitiveness and to join a culture of patriotism. Its marketing activities give due recognition and accolade to Filipino creations and inventions to promote love of country.

ABE has built a huge permanent selling and display area for Filipino products with potentials to become competitive in the world market. It is also a showroom cum museum complete with business center and sales personnel. It will be called "Bahay EntrePinoy", a one-stop shop of Philippine-made products at the Hobbies of Asia Concept Mall, Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City.

Bahay EntrePinoy is envisioned to house in one strategic venue Filipino products manufactured and processed by micro and small entrepreneurs. It will be equipped with a computerized Point-Of-Sale (POS) inventory and cashiering systems, department store concept on arrangement of product display and selling, fully air-conditioned and with business facilities such as the office equipment with Internet access and prints, lounge, gazebo, conference room and lockers for a favorable business negotiations and transactions. The target tenants of Bahay EntrePinoy are the micro and small entrepreneurs from the provinces or regions.

"We will make Bahay EntrePinoy a worry-free selling and business venue for our fellow micro and small entrepreneurs," said Zenaida Umbal, Founding Chairman of the Association of Bahay EntrePinoy. "The ABE will do the marketing for them. All they have to do is to rent a space for their products for display and selling locally and globally; and everything is provided for them which include sales personnel and the use of business facilities. Rather than just incessantly join bazaars and trade exhibits from one venue to another, we felt of having the need to have a permanent trade and exhibit venue to dignify our fellow entrepreneurs' craftsmanship and creativity." she added.

Further, Bahay EntrePinoy is also a business incubator for the target tenants in their vision to reach the global market hence a comprehensive capability enhancement program is incorporated to further develop, enhance and boost up their entrepreneurial spirit and capacity of the target tenants. To achieve this, the association shall regularly provide entrepreneurship development assistance, business and financial consultancy and other marketing assistance through promotional activities, participation to international trade events and the implementation of e-business and call center support services.

The interior design of Bahay EntrePinoy is an attraction in itself as it will be a cultural educational zone on Philippine products. Philippine raw materials and decors will be utilized to set-up a showroom that will feature the Best of the Philippine products, The Philippines' First (An Inventors' Lane), Trivia on Filipino Products and Inventions, EntrePinoy Exporters Hall of Famers.

The products for selling at the Bahay EntrePinoy are attuned to the Philippine Government's Small and Medium Enterprise Development Plan 2004-2010. Categories include Food Industry, Organic and Natural products, Marine products, Wearables, Leather Goods, Home Furnishings, Construction materials, Micro-Electronics, IT Services, Motor Vehicle Parts and Components.

Bahay EntrePinoy is now an integral part of the Hobbies of Asia Concept Mall.

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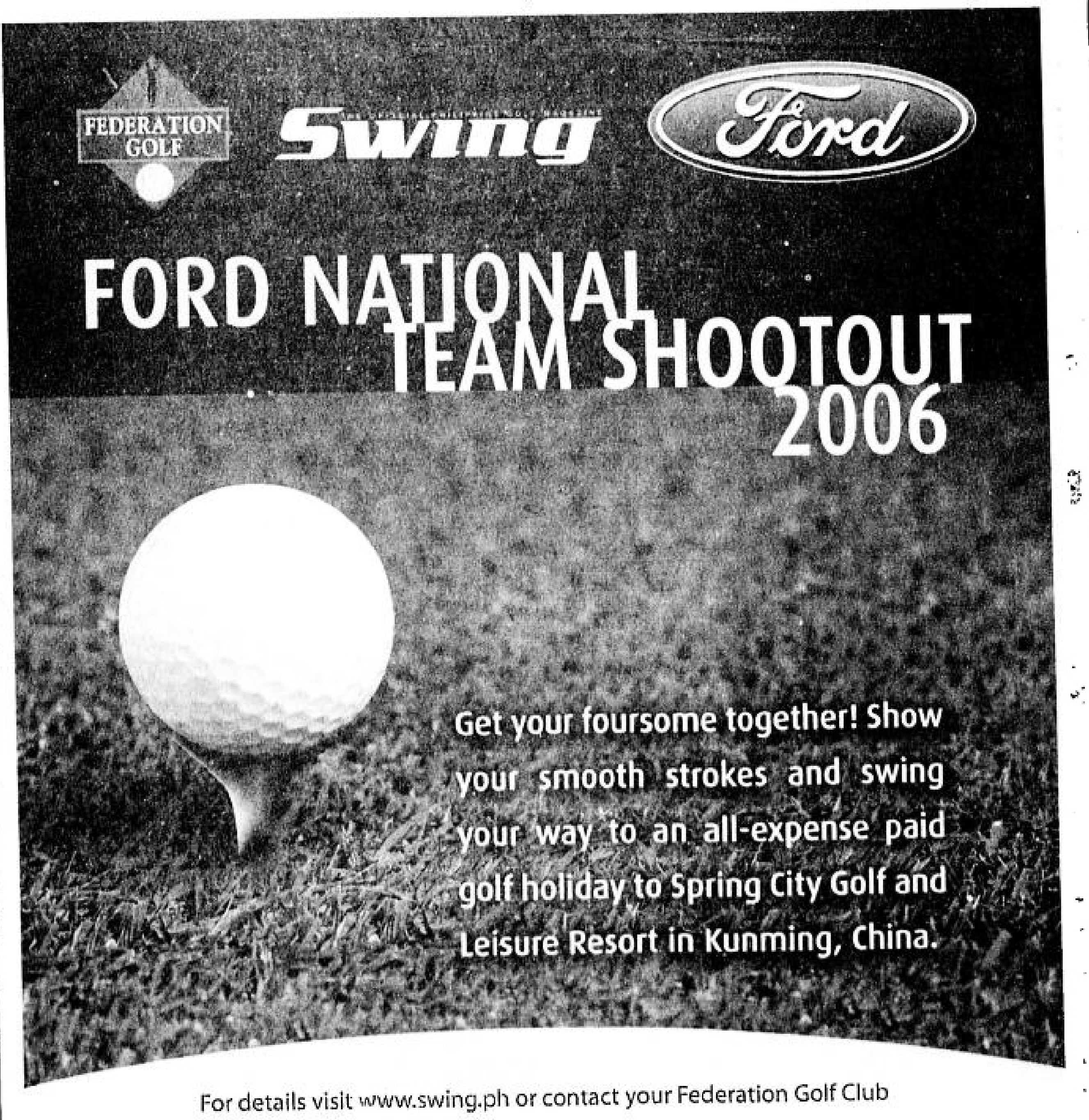
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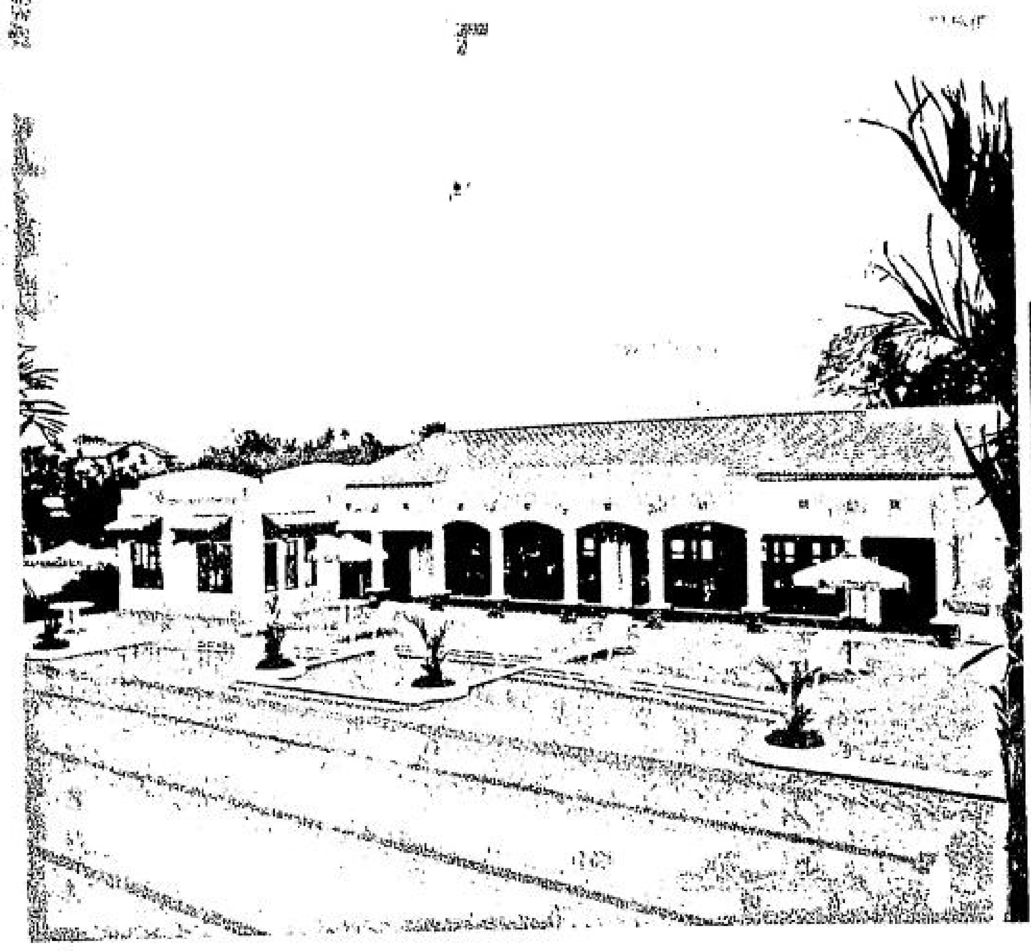
Stage 1: Club Qualifying Tournament

March 25 - Sherwood Hills Golf Club, Trece Martirez, Cavite
March 25 - Pueblo de Oro Golf & Country, Cagayan de Oro
April 1 - Canlubang Golf & Country Club, Canlubang, Laguna
April 1 & 6 - Mt. Malarayat Golf & Country Club, Lipa, Batangas
April 1 & 2 - Orchard Golf & Country Club, Dasmariñas, Cavite
April 1 & 3 - Tagaytay Highlands Int'l. Golf Club, Tagaytay
April 2 - Eastridge Golf Club, Inc. Binangonan, Rizal
March 28 & 30 - Royal Northwoods Golf Club, Inc. Bulacan
April 4-9 - Sta. Elena Golf Club, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
April 5 - Negros Occidental Golf & Country Club
April 6 - Forest Hills Golf & Country Club, Inc. Antipolo City
April 7 - Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club, Carmona, Cavite
April 8 & 9 - Camp John Hay Golf Club, Baguio
April 9 - Iloilo Golf & Country Club, Iloilo
April 8 - Manila Golf & Country Club, Forbes Park
April 8 & 9 - Valley Golf & Country Club, Cainta, Rizal
April 8 - Wack-Wack Golf & Country Club, Mandaluyong
April 22 - Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club, Gen. Trias, Cavite

Stage 2: Satellite Elimination in each district
(Luzon, North, South, East, West, and Visayas/Mindanao)

Stage 3: Grand Finals



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Take your pick from fast-moving Ponderosa Heights premium lots

Each day the garden is different, and new in some way: a flower reaches full bloom; a new cluster of leaves appears; a seed falls, allowing new life to begin. That's the story at Ponderosa Leisure Farms, exclusive residential flower garden village in Silang, Cavite.

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Just as quickly as the different features and areas of Ponderosa Leisure Farms are coming together—the *Villa Ponderosa Clubhouse, Campo Verde Campsite*, and the *El Refugio and the El Sanctuario Themed Gardens*, to name a few—more and more city residents and garden enthusiasts are drawn like butterflies to the irresistible flower-inspired Ponderosa lifestyle.

Ponderosa Heights: higher and better

With Ponderosa Leisure Farms (Phase 1) nearly sold-out, developer Landco Pacific Corporation makes a new cluster of lots available for those who missed the first batch: Ponderosa Heights. Set in a prime spot, the lots (17 hectares in total) are better than their neighbors', with higher location and more fanciful terrain. The area will feature 4 elegant and ornate garden courts, in which one can enjoy the relaxing space, the breeze, and the exhilarating view.

With an exquisite Spanish-Mexican inspired visual theme, the project offers superb location (Sta. Rosa Highway, just 45 minutes from Makati), crisp Tagaytay weather and climate, and perfect terrain. Lush landscape, and a world of flowers. The wide expanse is dotted by features and amenities designed to bring new colors and flavors to your lifestyle. Maintenance services allow hassle-free gardening.

Coming together

The project continues to bloom: the Villa Ponderosa Clubhouse is getting prepped for all the social action that is to come. With an area that welcomes 80 - 100 people, the structure is another graceful mix of Spanish and Mexican architecture. Its central attraction is a high-ceilinged function room accented by light fixtures on the walls and ceiling. The Clubhouse's glass doors create a wide, spacious, relaxed environment, allowing the interiors to extend naturally into the space and greenery that surrounds.

Just a few weeks away from its launching, the Special Event Area, beside the Clubhouse, features a built-in stage and water fountain in the center. The children's playground, as well as the Las Rosas Outdoor Dining and Tienda de Flores Village Store are soon to rise. Also under construction is a Model House for Ponderosa Heights. Casa Ponderosa, the Model House for the entire development, is available for viewing.

Flower Power

Hurry and reserve a place of your own at Ponderosa Leisure Farms. Experience the beauty and allure of a garden-fresh life—dewdrops in the morning; kids running around the sprinklers; the earth's fragrance after rainfall. Always fresh, always new. Every day, different.

It's your turn to experience Ponderosa Leisure Farms! New lots are available at the highest locations of the village. Call 809-3853 or 0920-9107145 for more information. You may also send e-mail to LFCustomerservice@landcopacific.com Visit www.leisurefarms.com for news and updates. Located in the cool breezy fields of Silang, Cavite, Ponderosa Leisure Farms is just 5 minutes from Tagaytay, and 45 minutes from Metro Manila. Ponderosa Leisure Farms is a quality development of Landco Pacific Corporation.

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Helena is back!

The Azabache girl is determined to move mountains

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

Part I

SHE WAS AN ICON ONE could not easily forget. In 1969, an 18-year-old, wearing skin-tight pedal pushers, red-and-green striped blouse and ankle-strapped shoes with extra high heels dropped from the sky on the fashion scene. Fine curly hair cascaded on either side of her face. Two layers of false lashes surrounded her eyes.

Her name was Helena Carratala, henceforth to be known as Helena Guererro, being then the bride just brought home from Barcelona by Wahoo Guerrero, scion of grand patriarch Don Ramon Roces of the publishing empire. They had met in a café bar near Helena's high school. She was handsome, alabaster-skinned, red-blooded Iberian.

Actually there was nothing at all fake about Helena but her lashes. She was as genuine a nut as could be found, her creativity reaching deep into Philippine soil to trailblaze for a whole generation of fashion lovers.

Society women then either wore imported designer dresses (from exclusive stores like New Yorker) or stuck to the conservative Filipino couture of embroidered *ternos* by Valera, Pitoy or Aureo. There was nothing in between to disturb the peace.

The girl Helena was multitalented but had not yet decided quite what to do. A Pierre Cardin boutique had just been opened by the Prietos in Malate, which, under Giovanni Sanna, revolutionized the *barong*. Earlier, its objective had been to displace the market for imported dresses by importing the French designers themselves to do the clothes here.

One of them was Jean Paul Gaultier (Yes! Him! The famous French designer). He had apprenticed in Pierre Cardin, Paris, and was sent to be the assistant of an assistant of an assistant in Pierre Cardin, Manila. Haute couture is, by nature, ultra conservative. European designers in the '60s even wore white coats like doctors. Jean Paul Gaultier was the only child of an old provincial couple and still very much a closet queen. He was 22, only a few years older than Helena, and he couldn't speak a word of English.

The Prietos hired Helena to be his translator and she accompanied him wherever he went. Jean Paul often tried his creations on Helena and valued her opinions. She would tell him, "It's too long, make it shorter! Or it's too high, lower it! Or it's too small, make it bigger." It was she who urged him to "exaggerate! exaggerate!" Helena was instrumental in liberating the wildness in Jean Paul Gaultier that has since become his trademark.

They became good friends. Eventually, when it was time to leave, Jean Paul asked Helena what she would be doing when he was gone. "You have talent," he said emphatically, "You must become a designer." "But I have no training," Helena said, "I cannot draw, I cannot drape." (Draping is the real art of haute couture). And Jean Paul said, "I will teach you."

So his last six months in Manila Jean Paul

HELENA/ C2

PORTRAIT of present-day Helena Carratala by Katya Guerrero and At Maculangan

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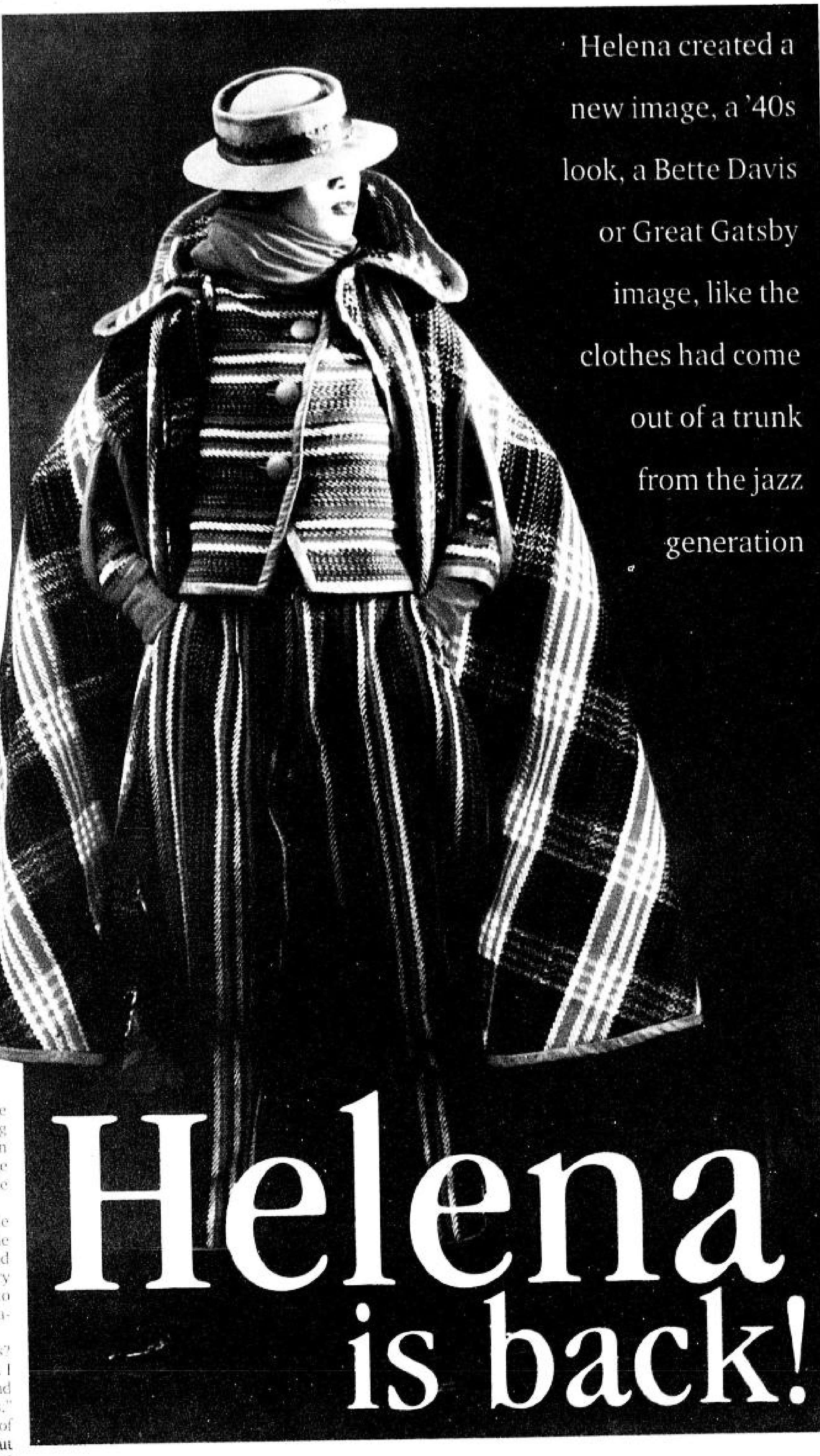


Helena created a new image, a '40s look, a Bette Davis or Great Gatsby image, like the clothes had come out of a trunk from the jazz generation

JACKET made of hand-loomed Igorot cloth, New York collection, 1991, modeled by Anna Bayle PHOTO REPRO BY KATYA GUERRERO AND AT MACULANGAN

From page C1

Gaultier went to Helena's house every day. They worked very hard; it was a crash course, although she already knew the basics from working with him—choosing the shape, the material, all the way to the fashion show. But now Helena had to learn how to do it all by herself.

Back of the house

And so began Azabache, the Helena fashion house. It was located in the back part of her Wack-Wack residence. Azabache means "jet black." Her grandfather-in-law, Don Ramon, who was fond of Helena, said, "*Naku hija*, you'll never make it with that name—it's so hard to pronounce. Besides Filipinos don't like black." But Helena was unconvinced and Azabache, jet black, it stayed. Nobody believed anything would come out of the venture. "They were all just indulging me," says Helena, "Their attitude was, let the little girl entertain herself so she won't get bored."

Helena hired Flora de Leon who had worked a total of 30 years with Valera, Pitoy, Aureo and Joe Salazar. "I drew this unusual dress and gave it to her," says Helena. "Flora stared at it for 10 minutes then said, 'It can't be done!' I said, 'Nothing's impossible! Do it!' That was me, a kid with no experience, talking to a seasoned cutter." But it worked. The improbable dress had become a reality.

Flora became Helena's master cutter all her life. She left for America with Helena when her marriage broke up and remained with her through all those difficult years trying to make it in the vast ocean that was New York. "We made all the craziest things together," says Helena, "and never did she contradict me again." Flora remained with Helena until she died of cancer in the '90s.

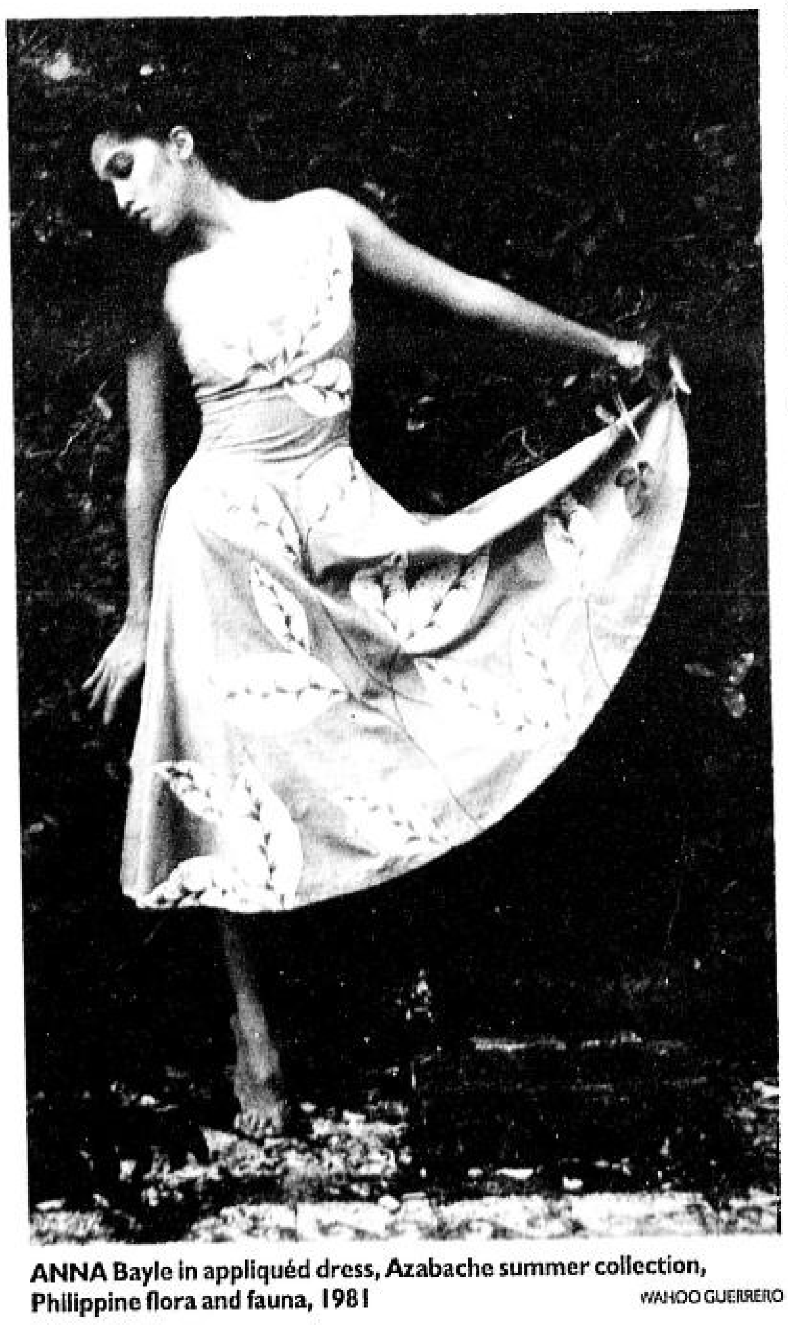
In its back-of-the-house shop, Azabache did couture for a handful of society ladies. The counter-culture shop had a large, red Chinese mirror, black walls, black gauzy curtains and black furniture. Helena created a new image, a '40s look, a Bette Davis or Great Gatsby image, like the clothes had come out of a trunk from the jazz generation. Her customers went crazy over them.

Azabache even held fashion shows. The models would disappear into two tiny fitting rooms to change, part the curtains, and then walk three steps because that was all the space there was! Music was Billie Holliday, Louie Armstrong, Benny Goodman.

As Azabache caught on, Helena met Jeannie Goulbourn, then the fashion director of the newly inaugurated Shoemart. She introduced Helena to Tessie Sy-Coson, daughter of Henry Sy, who leased Helena a space in the store to display ready-mades with a high fashion flavor.

"What did I know about ready-mades? Nothing!" remembers Helena. "It was 1976. I had just given birth to my second child and was gadding about in those crazy high heels." But as usual Helena was thoroughly sure of herself, totally passionate and childlike about everything. "I thought I could do anything! I took up the challenge. What I did not know I researched and learned by trial and error."

When Helena met Mr. Henry Sy, he said, "Let me give you some advice, young lady. Filipinos will never wear orange, purple or black" (which were the signature colors of Azabache). "I hope Mr. Sy thinks of me sometimes," muses Helena. "Because I broke every rule in the retail trade and came out a winner." But then Helena was an unusually honest artist who gave 100 percent of herself to every project.



ANNA Bayle in appliquéd dress, Azabache summer collection, Philippine flora and fauna, 1981 WAHOO GUERRERO

Seeing glamour

One Helena talent was seeing glamour even in the most commonplace objects. "I discovered these beaded *bakyas* in Quiapo," she relates, "I wore them everywhere, I was so proud of myself! But someone whispered to me, You know, only *palengkeras* wear that. And I said, Great!"

The Azabache ready-made clothes were trendy, artsy, revolutionary. Furthermore, they were meant to be democratic. Anyone could buy them and did—"the society people as well as the hostesses in M.H. del Pilar."

"We were just a bunch of kids," says Helena, "but we made a breakthrough in selling a very bold line of women's, teens and children's clothes. The "kids" were Flora de Leon, Ruben Nazareth, Dennis Tan, Chick Chick Mejas, Penny Turkell, Ces Mathay and Wahoo. Also the young artisans, *costureras, bordadoras* and *liliperas* who poured their love and fervor into their work.

"The core group would sit around a table," relates Helena. "It was 1976. I'd say something like, Let's make an Indian collection! I want bright chartreuse and orange. Also rubber shoes, chunky jewelry and sunglasses. They would scout the market for the fabrics and the raw material. We were the runners, the stylists, the think tank. We did everything—the designing, the marketing, the production, the advertising (Wahoo is a photographer). A company like that in the States would require a hundred people! We were only eight, but the pool of talents was immense. While the collection was being fitted, Budjiwara would come in and finish the look with the hairdo and the makeup. Other friends from the outside would interact with us—like Maning Obregon, Oscar Atendido, Neal Oshima, Butch Perez, Johnny and Tats Manahan, my brother, Ernesto Carratala, and probably more."

Soon whole towns were working for Azabache. Trucks delivered merchandise, all cut and designed, to houses and villages—Batangas for embroidering, Marikina for shoes and bags, providing livelihood for a lot of people. It was actually a golden age.

"My father raised me like a boy. To him that was the only way to be liberated," says Helena. "So I feel like a woman but think like a man. My mother, in turn, trained me like a high-class 19th-century courtesan—how to cook, how to be a perfect hostess, how to drink wine without smearing my lipstick, how to sit with a tight skirt on, how to walk with a very long train. Father was a leftist intellectual full of liberation ideas. They were opposites and you can imagine how I turned out."

Life of the party

The true art of Helena is her life. The parties she gave, talked about for years and years, were an application of that art. So were the fantastic costumes she wore to other people's happenings. Parties were an excuse to do something outrageous, to play, to be crazy.

One of Helena's most talked-about appearances was at the famous UP Artists' Ball. "I bought this roll of cellophane, 100 yards, and gave it to Flora to test whether it could be sewn and worn without ripping." It was a little-girl fantasy, not just of Cinderella's glass slippers, but of a whole crystal dress that would twinkle in the spotlight. The train was so long it had to be loaded on a separate pick-up truck. She wore long white gloves, white stockings and a little satin corset covered completely with rhinestones that glittered like diamonds.

Her colleague, Ruben Nazareth, began teasing her hair early in the morning. He wanted it very high, like Madam Pompadour—so, tease, baby powder, spray; tease, baby powder, spray. Then he painted Helena's face and body kabuki-white. Afterwards Ruben inserted birds and feathers into the coiffeur. It was a stupendous monumental hairdo.

She arrived at the party with her entourage of gays who put the cellophane dress on her right on the wide, wide stairs: Of course, when she walked into the ballroom everybody's jaw dropped.

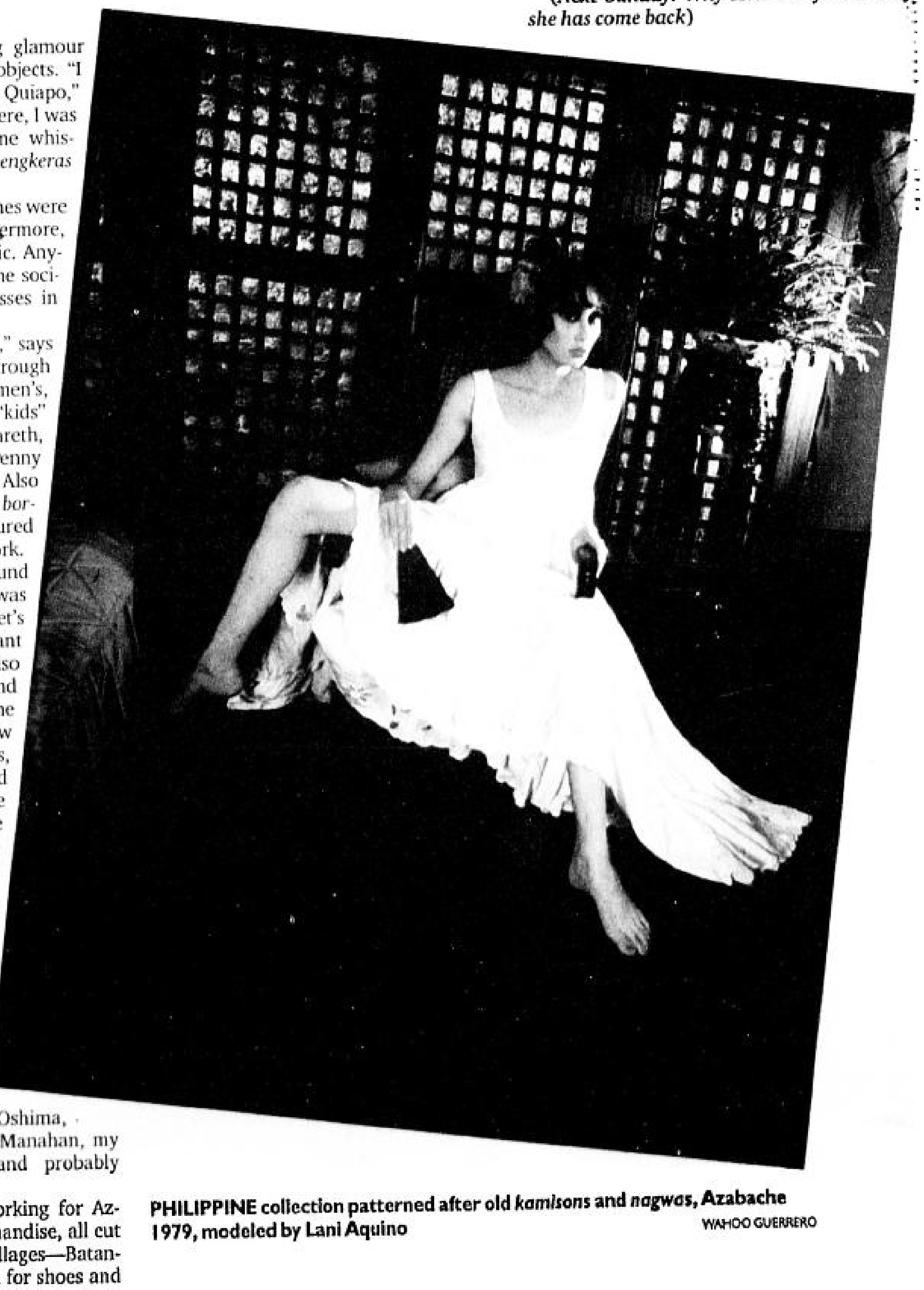
"Creativity?" says Helena, "It's the only human quality that's also divine. We created beautiful costumes practically out of nothing, the materials were so cheap. For three whole days I was untangling that hair!"

Helena professes to being basically shy. Those dramatic entrances were really her coping mechanism. "The idea is to shock everybody with your entrance," says Helena. "The cameras go click, click, click and you don't even have to make conversation. I hate petty talk, especially with people who are not even interested. That gimmick made possible a quick entrance and a quick getaway. And everybody could say, Oh, Helena was there!"

"Once I went to a party of a German guy named Wolfgang, wearing 20 yards of material. It was unsewn and I was rolled in it like a *suman*. We were all drinking a lot when suddenly I felt faint. I walked to a palm tree by the swimming pool and sat under it. It was near a spotlight and everyone thought I was posing with all that *tela* flowing into the pool. Actually I had passed out.

"When they realized I was out, five guys carried me to the master bedroom. Once there, they struggled to untie and unroll me—it was hilarious! But that's me—it's part of being a piece of art."

(Next Sunday: Why Helena left and why she has come back)



PHILIPPINE collection patterned after old *kamisons* and *nagwas*, Azabache 1979, modeled by Lani Aquino WAHOO GUERRERO

Light and whimsical for Spanish summer

WHITE tee with gold details, white denim pants, gold chained necklace and bracelet, sunglasses with amber lenses, white leather tote and striped blue and white cropped jacket

TOP SPANISH BRAND ZARA HAS opened a new shop at the G/L, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center. The original shop that opened last year is at the Powerplant in Rockwell, Makati.

Zara opened its first store in 1975 in Coruña, Spain. It debuted overseas in Proto, Portugal, in 1988, then opened stores in New York (1989) and Paris (1990). Zara has a continuously growing network of outlets in key cities across Europe, the Americas, Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Zara is well known for churning out new fashionable pieces as often as twice a week. The stores themselves are carefully designed spaces.

At Glorietta 3, Zara occupies 1,700 sq m of space. It carries Zara's latest spring-summer collection, consisting of nautical pieces.

For more dressy occasions, Zara has come up with its "rockmantic" style, which combines iconic rock and stylish romance.

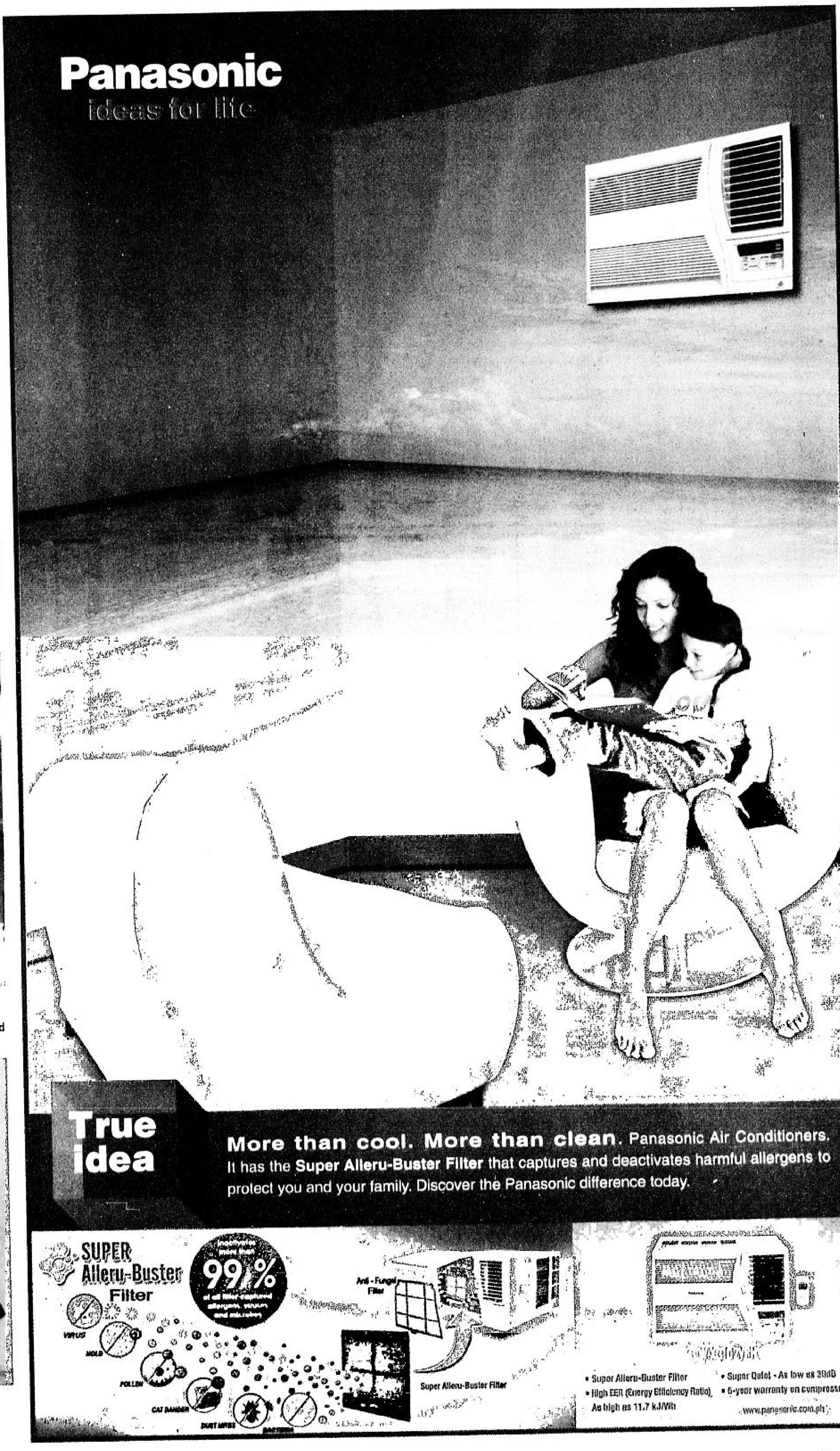
Zara plays with ruffles, Victorian blouses, tailored jackets, bubble and tulle skirts, rock-and-roll t-shirts, beaded vests, cropped trousers and fitted jeans to keep things light and comfortable with a touch of whimsy.

Zara is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Stores Specialists, Inc.

CHARCOAL beaded rock-and-roll tee, black pleated mini skirt with lace trim and gold sequined scarf

MODEL in background: green bubble dress and candy-colored beads. Model in foreground: white tee, charcoal hoodie, plaid cut-off shorts and candy-colored beads

PINK plaid summer dress with ruffles, orange sandals with braided straps and shelled flower detail and candy-colored beaded necklace



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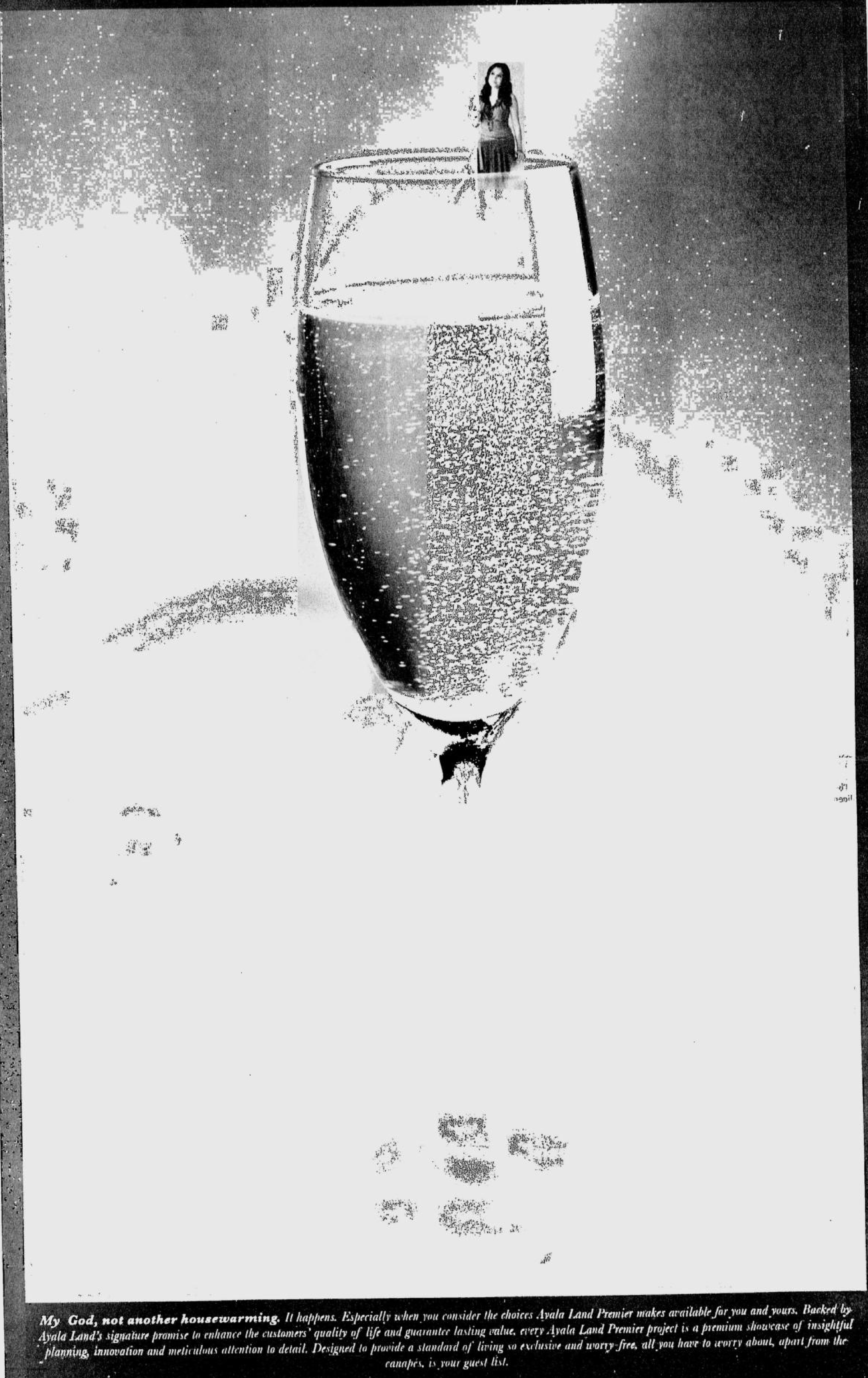

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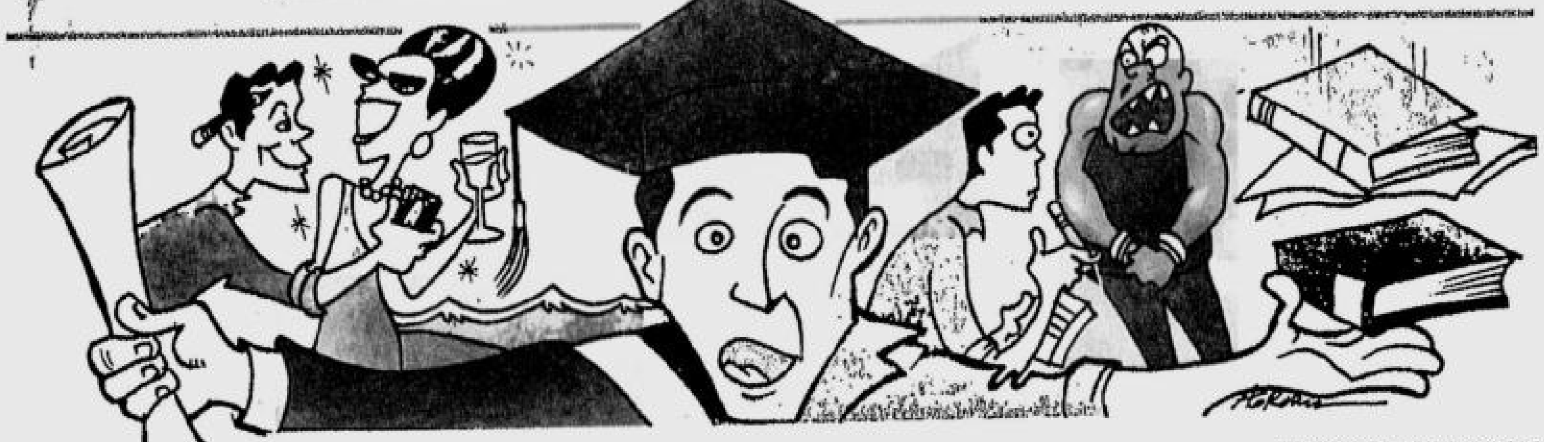

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

TO THE CLASS OF 2006

Life is continuing education

By Alex Y. Vergara

TODAY MARKS THE START OF your future.

Don't be surprised if everything you thought you've learned in college in the past four years or so seems incomplete or, worse, downright irrelevant the minute you enter the wide world of the workplace. Nor should you lose heart.

One week may be a long time in politics, but four years are woefully short when it comes to acquiring all the knowledge and skills you'll need—professionally and, more so, interpersonally—to survive and make sense of this life.

Instead of putting the blame on your mentors and the institutions that endeavored to mold you into what you've become today, you should use this period of transition to determine your strengths and to draw from them as you begin to chart your own course.

Back in college, for instance, all I dreamed of was to travel, meet interesting people and eventually see my name and stories published. It seemed simple and doable enough, I thought.

On the beat

Imagine my shock when I finally got the chance to fulfill my wish not in the realm of glitzy fashion shows, exotic locales and palatial homes, but in the bowels of the police precincts of Metro Manila. Talk about answered prayers!

Indeed, what could be a more interesting place to a budding journalist to generate stories from than a series of rundown police stations? There where you sometimes couldn't tell policemen and criminals apart.

The assignment didn't lack for "travel" opportunities either, as I often found myself shuttling between crime scenes.

Who knows? I could have become another hard-hitting columnist like Ramon Tulfo had I stuck it out in the police beat. But I didn't stay long enough to find out, as I quickly stepped out of the beat after barely a week and went back to the relatively uneventful confines of the editorial department.

Rather than force myself to become somebody that I wasn't, I did a tactical retreat to assess the situation and study my options. Apart from being less dramatic, the choices I took—including thankless stints as proofreader, which, thank God, didn't impair my "critical" vision, and as supplements writer—unfolded more slowly.

These choices, I believe, apart from instilling in me the patience of Job, gave me a better understanding and appreciation of the profession as they eventually brought me to my original goal of becoming a lifestyle journalist.

I may not strike fear in the hearts of erring law enforcers and hardened criminals these days, but I certainly can cause some overrated and copycat fashion designers some sleepless nights.

(But seriously, one can always find substance even in the most seemingly mundane and fluffy aspects of journalism. People, whether they're underworld characters or larger-than-life celebrities, need to be properly fleshed out.)

What's my point? Learning—and that includes knowing when to hold back and when to make calculated risks—doesn't stop the minute you go beyond the school's four walls. Rather, it ends the minute you breathe your last.

Take it from former US Secretary of War Newton Baker: "The man (and woman) who graduates today and stops learning tomorrow is uneducated the day after."

What you have just been through as students, despite the intensity and frequency you spent burning the midnight oil during those marathon cramming sessions, is a mere foretaste of what lies ahead.

If the wealth of knowledge waiting to be tapped is vast, your capacity to explore what lies out there is even more so.

True, there will be workplace equivalents of bad-hair days when everything seems to be askew and you seem pitifully helpless to do anything about it.

Don't despair if even your best efforts don't add up or lead to creative and even moral dead ends. With a bit of time and lots of prayers you'll get your groove back.

Complex human behavior

What can become a tad puzzling, though, is trying to fully fathom the complexities of human behavior within and outside the workplace.

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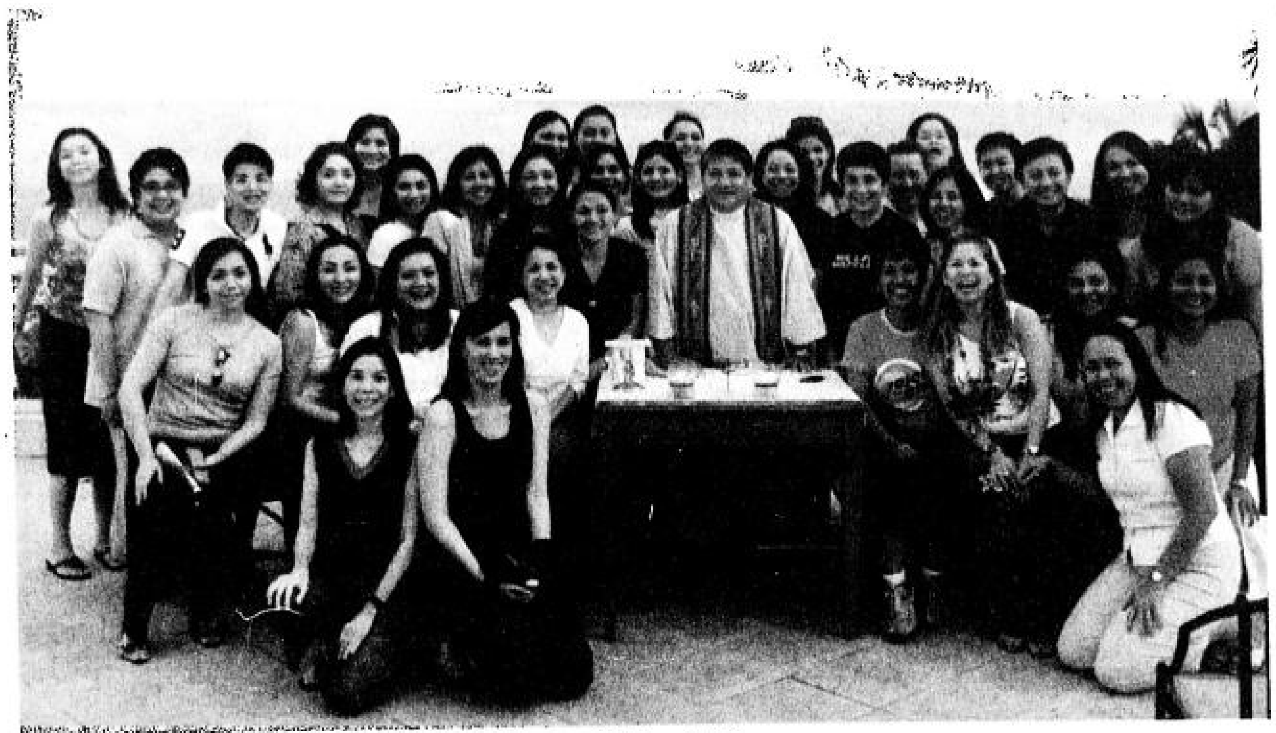


HEALING priest Fr. Gerard Deveza with Assumption HS Batch '81

I'm sure our husbands will find it exhilarating when we demonstrate our workouts, complete with chair and boa feathers

STRIP-DANCING girls Carmela Puyat, Marina Francisco Sarao, Christine Carlos, Claudette Cordon, Sea Princess, Aileen Sarmiento and Jojo Reyes Ongsiako with instructor Nilda Boquiren

Spa retreat for the senses and soul

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

HAVING A BABY AT MY RELAtively "mature" age has drastically changed my priorities. Motherhood is challenging but totally rewarding. Nursing my baby **Athena** at 3 a.m. is hard but I make the effort because the benefits of breast milk are enormous for her.

When it comes to child rearing, mothers can get a lot of help from family, friends, Barney the purple dinosaur and Gymboree. In today's competitive world, getting a head start on scholastic and social skills is increasingly important.

Gymboree Play and Music (call 8170951 local 251) has been providing parent-child play programs that focus on encouraging physical, cognitive and social skills in a nurturing and fun environment. The programs are designed to open kids' creative expressions and at the same time teach them to interact with others.

Gymboree has been around for 30 years and I have been with them for most of that as I have had babies over a 20-year range—my eldest, **Bryan**, turns 21 this year. I still remember their trademark activity—Parachute Time. Being a single mother at that time, I'd look forward to attending the sessions and also to chat with the other mommies.

Fast-forward to present day—now Gymboree has branches in Manila Polo Club, Shangri-La Mall, Alabang and Cebu. Athena is enrolled in several classes including a music session. She just started with her summer camp and has her regular friends already. During classes, I love to watch as Athena just kisses everybody. I guess she is going to be just as friendly as I am. Or maybe it's the influence of her *ninong* **Tim Yap**.

At the colorful opening of their new home at the Polo Club, kids below 5 were all treated to free Gymplay and kiddie cart food by Kiddie-party.com. The matted play area, with a variety of slides, tunnels and tubes, was packed with cute kids catching bubbles and singing to the upbeat music.

I graduated high school in Assumption College exactly 25 years ago. As fortysomethings, I thought I was the only one still in baby mode, dealing with ProKids diapers and Baby Einstein videos. To my surprise, four or five of us have newborns and one is "on the way." My classmate, **Yellie Alcaraz Nonato**, just delivered a healthy baby girl, Sarah, after trying for over 10 years. Congratulations! Motherhood is a blessing and totally wonderful!

In preparation for our homecoming this October, we held a specialized "Spa Retreat" in Tagaytay. Urban Spa (call 6876195) therapists were provided while the rest enjoyed reminiscing on canteen food, platoon leaders, seating arrangements and the price of Coke. It was a hilarious trip down memory lane.

Ever-reliable and resourceful **Popsie Gamboa**, owner of Milky Way, made sure finance frau **Girlie Guzman Sison** provided a budget for food and snacks. As her birthday treat, Popsie served her delicious *adobo* and *tapa* for breakfast. Desserts overflowed too, especially the double chocolate fudge of **Rina Go** (call 0919-8356984).

Arts and crafts

Before the spiritual part of the retreat, we had arts-and-craft activities, starting with items from Thinkado (inside Landes Store in Podium and Fundamentals Store in Shang Mall). Tall and generous **Ona Lopez Chung** started us decorating sun visors and pillows with glitter, beads, rhinestones, padded flowers, buttons, etc. It was all so therapeutic. The more artistic ones worked on their projects combined with nonstop chatting. It was just like school days when no one would listen to the teacher and we were all busy talking nonsense.

The next activity was scrapbook making. The old-fashioned way of making scrapbooks is gone. Scrappinmoms is a group of moms I met at Wedding Expo and they came to show us some tricks. Headed by **Joanne Yap** (call 0916-5485867 or www.scrappinmoms.net), her group offers "scrapping" services and workshops. They even had die-cutting machines that could make super cute, easy-to-do, spiral, alphabet and heart designs. The whole table was filled with colorful paper, stickers, pens and glitter as we made accordion greeting cards with the help of partners **Mia Castrillo** and **April Lim**.

Scrappinmoms will help me make fun mini-albums for the upcoming first birthday party of Athena. After all that scrapbook making, I decided to just ask for their help because there are just too many great ideas!

Baby shower

Before sunset, we surprised our expectant classmate, Girlie, with a baby shower. Aside from being our financemeister, she is also in charge of our spiritual well being. After the shower, fantastic healing priest, Fr. **Gerard Deveza**, offered individual confessions and healing.

When asked what my afflictions were, I just asked for a general blessing. He put his calming hands over my head and meditated. After that, he said my mind needed to be more at peace. I agreed and thanked him for the graces.

The solemn Mass, held overlooking scenic Taal Lake, was so heartwarming. Father Gerard's homily reflected on forgiveness and harmony with God. Watching the orange sky turn violet made the scene even more dramatic. Indeed, the magnificence of God was felt by all.

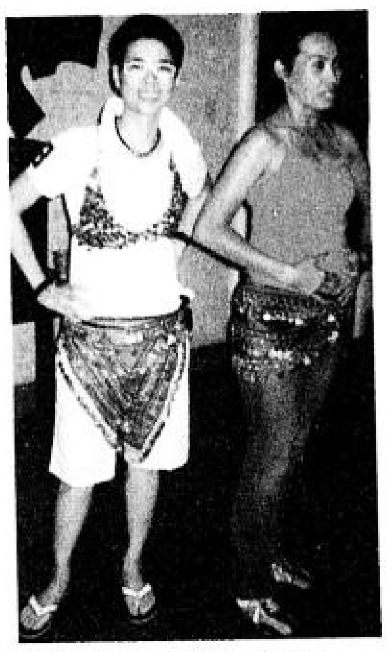
Aside from food, art, massage and relaxation, also on the agenda was belly dancing. In order to limber up for the show in October, instructor **Nilda Boquiren** (call 0916-5019446) got the group gyrating with belly twists and twirls while I provided scarves and accessories to make it more authentic. **Tessa Alindogan** won best in Belly Outfit, with her *pandesal* abs putting us all to shame.

For a spicier workout, Nilda also taught strip dancing with moves that would shock the Assumption nuns. So perhaps our batch's birthing days may not yet be over! I'm sure our husbands will find it exhilarating when we demonstrate our workouts, complete with chair and boa feathers.

Before heading home, talented **Lourd Ramos** of Emphasis Salon conducted makeup tips using MAC cosmetics. Everyone eagerly checked out new makeup strokes and **Liza Orosa Trinidad** ended up being our class expert.

A big thank you to all the generous sponsors of our fund-raising activities for the Assumption Mission Schools. Through you, we are able to help so many underprivileged children and we will all have a wonderful homecoming this October as well.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

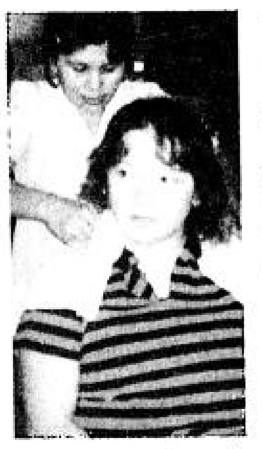


SEXY Tessa Alindogan doing belly dancing with Nilda

PLAYTIME at Gymboree with Ruffa Gutierrez Bektas and daughter Venice

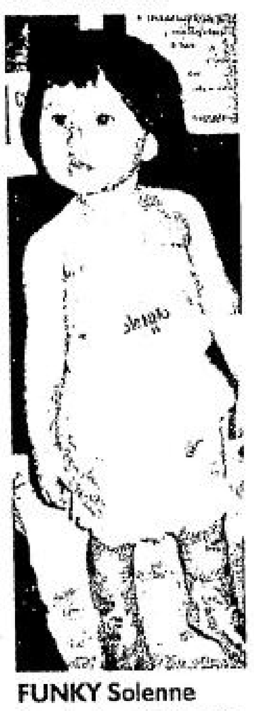
COUSIN Queenie Laurel and son Javier

CLASSMATE and Gymboree patron Karina Galang Kluck and cute daughter Avery



URBAN Spa therapist Guy working on Liza Orosa Trinidad

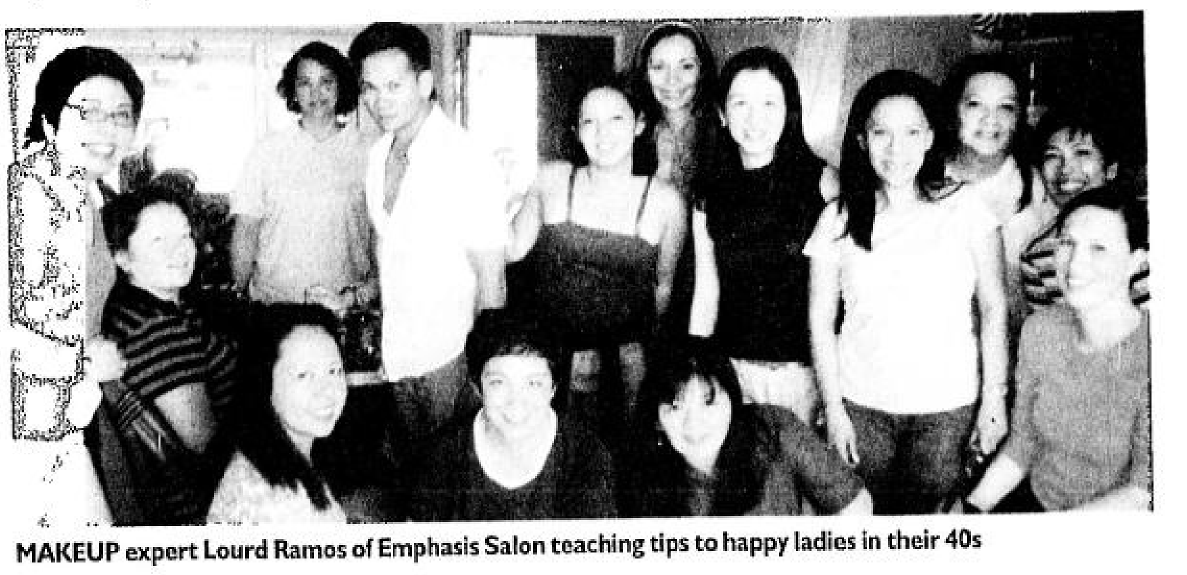
SCRAPPINMOMS Mia Castrillo, Joanne Yap and April Lim



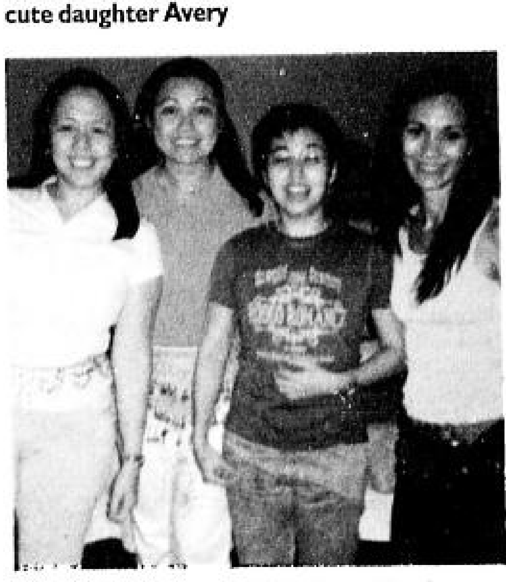
FUNKY Solenne Santos in gold boots

SECTION 1 girls Pia Lopez Lorenzo, Liaa Cojuangco Bautista and pregnant Girlie Guzman Sison

GYMBOREE family: Leah Reyes, Jackie Aquino Gavino, Sea Princess, Ann Tan and teacher Eli Santiago with nephew Caille



MAKEUP expert Lourd Ramos of Emphasis Salon teaching tips to happy ladies in their 40s



FRIENDLY classmates Claudette Cordon, Ona Lopez Chung, Lorvi Mapa and Lindy Pellicer Magnaye

BUBBLE play at Gymboree Manila Polo Club

ENERGETIC and playful scene at Gymboree's matted play area

BILEG TI ILOCANO

CYNTHIA Jimeno (center) basks in the limelight as Pinay Top Model 2006. With her are other winners in the contest, all wearing Baddeo collection.

Model OFW from Ilocos shines

TWENTY-SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Cynthia Jimeno from Ilocos Sur works as OFW in Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong. She won the title Pinay Top Model 2006 recently, sponsored by Tel True Limited in cooperation with Smart 1528. It was held at Chater Garden, Central Hong Kong.

Jimeno bested other finalists in the first ever modeling competition of OFWs abroad. She also bagged best in fitness, cocktail dress and long gown awards. The other winners were Cheryl Solivar (Batanes), Loida Galinato (Ilocos Sur), Jane Daconos (Abra), Rowena Bunao (Isabela), Charlyn Roque (Iloilo), Mary Jane Nucop (Pangasinan) and Liza Rubido (Iloilo).

The search for "Pinay Top Model" started April of last year. It was open to all single Filipina OFWs.

HK RESIDENTS Sam and Rocele Heung produced Pinay Top Model 2006 for Filipina OFWs.

Hong Kong-based Filipino banker Joel Almeda and some friends from Banco de Oro Central HK tapped fashion designer Eddie Baddeo to design and execute the gowns of our *kababayan* models. Baddeo also gave the models some tips on how to carry designer clothes, walk down the ramp and look great in every way.

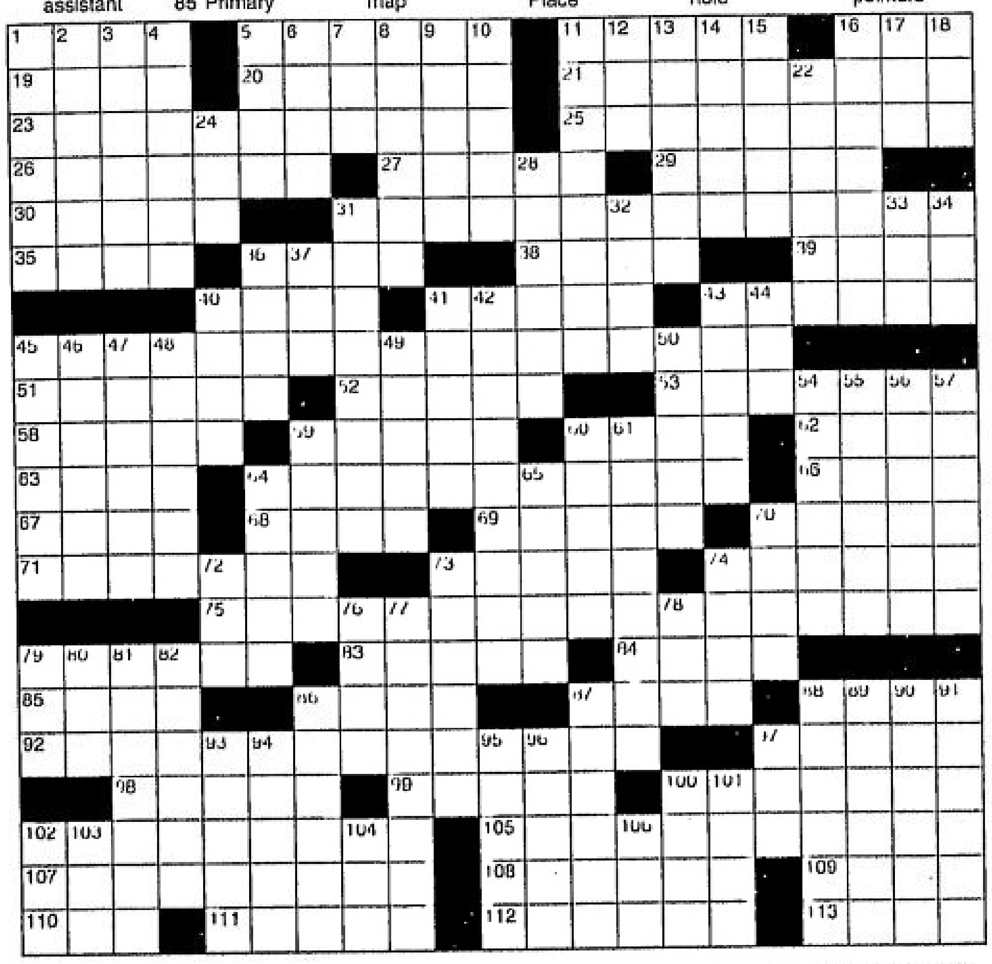
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

BRUSHING UP

ACROSS
1 "You could hear — drop"
5 Buddy you write to regularly
11 — Carta
16 Conclusion of Descartes
19 House, in Juarez
20 Tristan's beloved
21 Like gymnasts' skills
23 Result of zooming in
25 Pirates
26 Envoy's residence
27 With 113-Across, Al Capone's nemesis
29 Prefer
30 Gave out cards
31 Whitecap, e.g.
35 Makes a blunder
36 Times of note
38 They're exchanged at weddings
39 Just slightly
40 Oafish lab assistant
41 Historical fur trader
43 Dots in the sea
45 "The Night Watch," e.g.
51 Singer Frankie
52 Acquires
53 Take away (from)
58 Camera company
59 Capacitance unit
60 Lose traction
62 Folklore fiend
63 Recognized
64 Use a gun or a camera
66 R&B singer Marvin
67 Beige shade
68 Fruity drinks
69 Not fitting
70 Subatomic particle
71 Breathe
73 Precipitates in winter
74 Against
75 College in Hamilton, NY
79 Prescription sleep aid
83 Opposite of absorb
84 Copenhagen citizen
85 Primary
86 Airplane staff
87 Dollar part
88 Cheek
92 Million-selling album
97 Novelist Ephron
98 Mr., in Malaga
99 Harmless as —
100 Classifieds
102 "I'm ready to tackle this!"
105 Theme of this puzzle
107 Being a personal guide to
108 Spanish diacritical marks
109 "Say it isn't true!"
110 Shako, as a tail
111 Jittery
112 "— Fideles"
113 See 27-Across

DOWN
1 Give in (to)
2 Golf great Arnold
3 Line on a weather map
4 Some French vowels
5 Name of 12 popes
6 See from afar
7 Fall mo.
8 Toolbox staple
9 Designer Simpson
10 Track legend Carl
11 Extinct tusked mammal
12 Bandage brand
13 Inserted shoots
14 Jazz singer Jones
15 Higher than
16 Say again
17 Atmosphere
18 Roast hosts, for short
22 Assertion
24 Repair shop fig.
28 Ear ailment
31 Old maid, e.g.
32 Stronghold
33 Brewery tank
34 Begley and Koch
36 Richard of "A Summer Place"
37 Tarzan portrayer Ely
40 Wrinkle remover
41 Of bees
42 Desert hills
43 Clumsy
44 U.S.A.F. officer
45 Prominent person
46 Reveal
47 Producers
48 Explode
49 Lipinski and Reid
50 — box (TV)
54 Astaire's partner
55 1992 Wimbledon winner
56 Wail
57 Itty-bitty
59 Cuba's Castro
60 Pitcher Estes
61 Unevenly balanced
64 Spelling of TV
65 Pig proboscis
70 Nothing more than
72 Winter hazard
73 Drunk as a skunk
74 Steam hole
76 Pathogen
77 Info on a toy package
78 Family vehicle
79 Roadie's load
80 Prefix with function
81 Prejudicing
82 Focused
86 "Coneheads" co-star Jane
87 Like jambalaya
88 Elroy of cartoons
89 City SW of Kansas City
90 Reams
91 Lariats
93 Gold bar
94 Bete — (bane)
95 Terra —
96 Grape-shaped
97 Cloning material
100 Hone
101 Church section
102 Upscale auto
103 "Still Crazy" star Stephen
104 Walk- — (small roles)
106 NFL six-pointers



answer on page E3

Prince Charles on Manila: 'Awful, filthy, smelly'

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

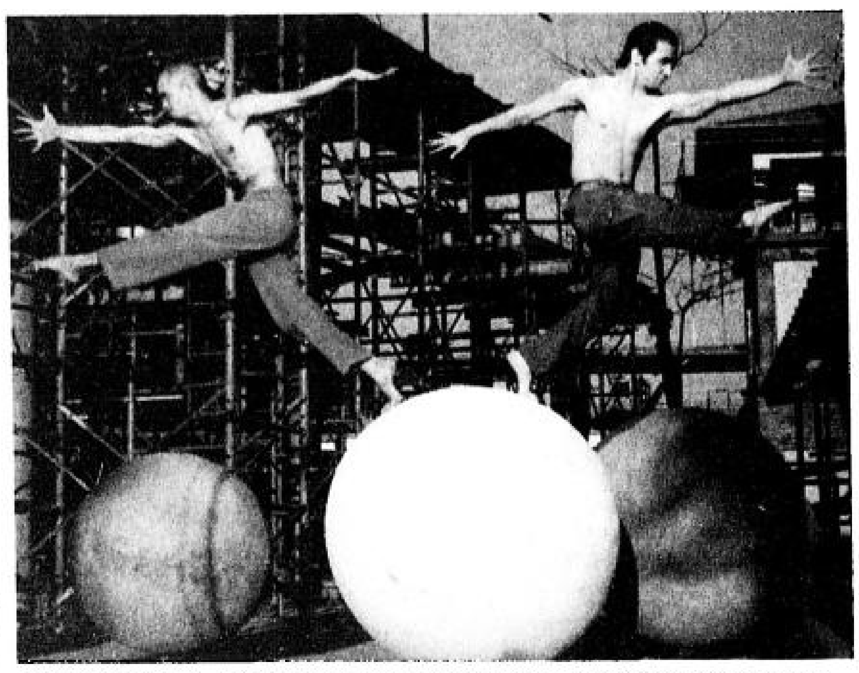
MUST-WATCH TV SERIES—"Grey's Anatomy." I am through being "desperate" and "lost." For me, the most exciting TV series in the world is "Grey's Anatomy." A consistent top-10 rater in the US, "Grey's Anatomy" is about five surgical interns—their lives, heartbreaks and medical challenges. It's a cross between "ER" (less serious), "Sex and the City"/"Ally McBeal," and Scrubs (less slapstick). You will definitely fall in love with the characters—ice queen Cristina (Sandra Oh); ex-model Izzie (Katherine Heigl); nerdy but likeable George (T.R. Knight); arrogant ladies man Alex (Justin Chambers); and the show's namesake, Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo).

And, of course, there's Dr. McDreamy Derek Shepherd played by '80s teen heartthrob **Patrick Dempsey**, who, like **Teri Hatcher**, is enjoying a career revival. The character is the love interest of Meredith, and although Dempsey has matured, he still retains that JFK Jr. appeal that has made women feel weak in the knees.

Great news! Star World and Studio 23 is picking up the series and will be premiering it soon. Don't miss this one, it's totally addicting.

Stepping out. More than 10 years ago, **Sofia Elizalde** opened a dance studio in a small bungalow in Bel-Air Village and named it Steps Dance Studio. Since then, it has established a solid reputation as one of the most dynamic, innovative and creative studios in town, thanks to its superb facilities, trained instructors and the personal touch of the owner, of course!

For summer, the studio is offering an array of dance styles from jazz, modern dance, ballet, tap, street dance and the very popular hot dance, the exercise du jour flamenco. For more inquiries, call 7572984.



STEPPING OUT—Dance your way to fitness or a career via the best dance studio in town, Steps Dance Studio

JUN DE LEON

Prince Charles' private journals. The controversial diary of Prince **Charles** has been published and is causing quite a stir all over the world. The diary, which lists his thoughts during the Hong Kong handover in 1997, titled "The Great Chinese Takeaway," describes Chinese leaders as "appalling old waxworks." Written during his 14-hour trip back to the UK, he questions why he was riding business and not first class. "It took me some time to realize that this was not first class, although it puzzled me as to why the seat seemed so uncomfortable."

When he found out that other dignitaries on the British Airways flight were riding first class, he wrote, "Such is the end of Empire, I sighed to myself." The Prince is suing the tabloid who leaked it to the public saying that he is "entitled to his privacy like any person."

But hasn't he learned that he is not like the rest of us? He should take the cue from his mother, Queen **Elizabeth**, who does not comment on anything and is a great role model when it comes to "royal duties."

If he was going to be this vocal, he should have done it way back before he married the late Princess **Diana**, and we know how that ended up.

The journal opens the public's eyes on his sincerity—is he a bigot and a racist? Everyone is entitled to one's opinion, but someone with his stature and with the overworked spin doctors who try to make him and his soulmate **Camilla** acceptable must be beyond reproach.

Lastly, our city was not spared in the journal when he called Manila "an awful, smelly polluted harbor absolutely clogged with filth and rubbish." I think it's time for **William** to take over—he might have the same sentiments (who knows with the powerful and wealthy) but at least we can forgive him since he looks royal and handsome.

E-mail the author at antonsd@philtatler.com

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Life is continuing education

From page D1

What are you to do when people say one thing and do another? When they set rules they themselves break? When they censure one group and turn a blind eye on the transgressions of another? When whim and not merit becomes the main criterion for recognizing people's worth? When compromises threaten to supplant principles?

Sadly, there are no quick and easy answers. Not only can such inconsistencies and double standards stop an impervious locomotive of a person on his or her tracks, they can also act as a deadly contagion that can break down the moral fiber of even the toughest individual.

If you don't watch out, you'll soon become the very persons you detest. Be brave, hold fast to your ideals and don't ever let your guard down, not even for a second.

Nothing is ever as easy or as simple as it seems in this world. Consider such lumps and bumps along the way as part of your continuing education, too.

And if you deem education as your passport to the good life (the temptation is, indeed, great), you might want to think of it in a bigger, more altruistic way.

As American broadcaster Tom Brokaw once said, "Think of the years you spent in school as your ticket to change the world."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Practical sendoff gifts

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES need certain essentials as they move on to college.

Send them off to college with gifts that are practical and easy on the pocket.

Orocan's Caha de Oro Image Dresser is an all-in-one chest and drawer combination with space for clothes and other necessities.

The Ventura is the macho version of the Image Dresser. It will not only ensure that clothes are kept clean and neat but will provide space for things boys need.

Caha de Oro pieces are easy to move around, with their heavy-duty caster rollers. They are formulated with anti-static agents to minimize grime and dust so they do not have to be cleaned often.

The items are also durable.

Both Image Dresser and Ventura have 18-carat gold-plated security locks.

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"BORACAY offers a lot of activities, but my favorite is nap time." —Johnny K. Francisco

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The last of the Boracay winners

THE LAST BATCH OF STANDOUT BORACAY photos are the entries of Alex and Louce Ozoa, Emilio L. Marañon III, Johnny K. Francisco and Lester Lagos.

They join the previous winners as finalists for the top three prizes in the PDI-Sun Village-Seair Best of Boracay photo contest. Winners may claim their Nivea Sun Gift Packs from our marketing department on any work day (call 8978808 and ask for Hazel Soriaga).

Just to refresh your memory, the previous weeks' winners include Gabi Espaldon, Delilah Grace V. Magtolis, Annie Beldia, Teresa Pison, Jannet Ngo, Christopher John R. Batan, Qyam Mychaels, Rochelle Bunag, Dennis S. Sibal, Michael Dy, Melissa Simpao, Jennifer Licad Horn, Clemente D. Fajardo Jr., Ammiel M. de Leon, Arnold C. Jumpay, Angel Antonio, Clemente D. Fajardo Jr., and Frederick Fomero.

Judging of all finalist photos will be done by a panel consisting of representatives from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sun Resorts Inc., Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. and professional photographers.

Criteria for judging are: 40 percent relevance, 30 percent overall impact, and 30 percent quality and technique.

Winners must submit the negatives or CD files of their winning entries before claiming their prizes.

All winning entries will become properties of Philippine Daily Inquirer and Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., which reserve the right to use the photos without any liability.

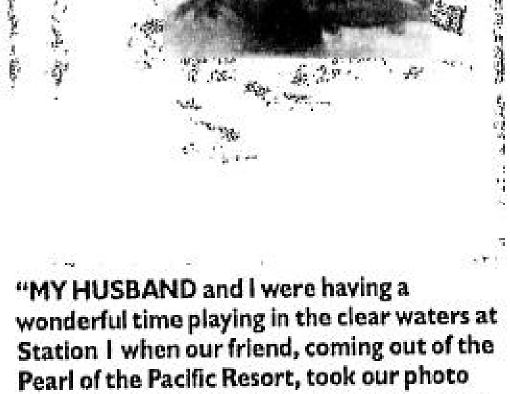
The top three Best of Boracay photo contest winners will be published on Easter Sunday.

The first-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for four to Boracay courtesy of Seair; five days-four nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

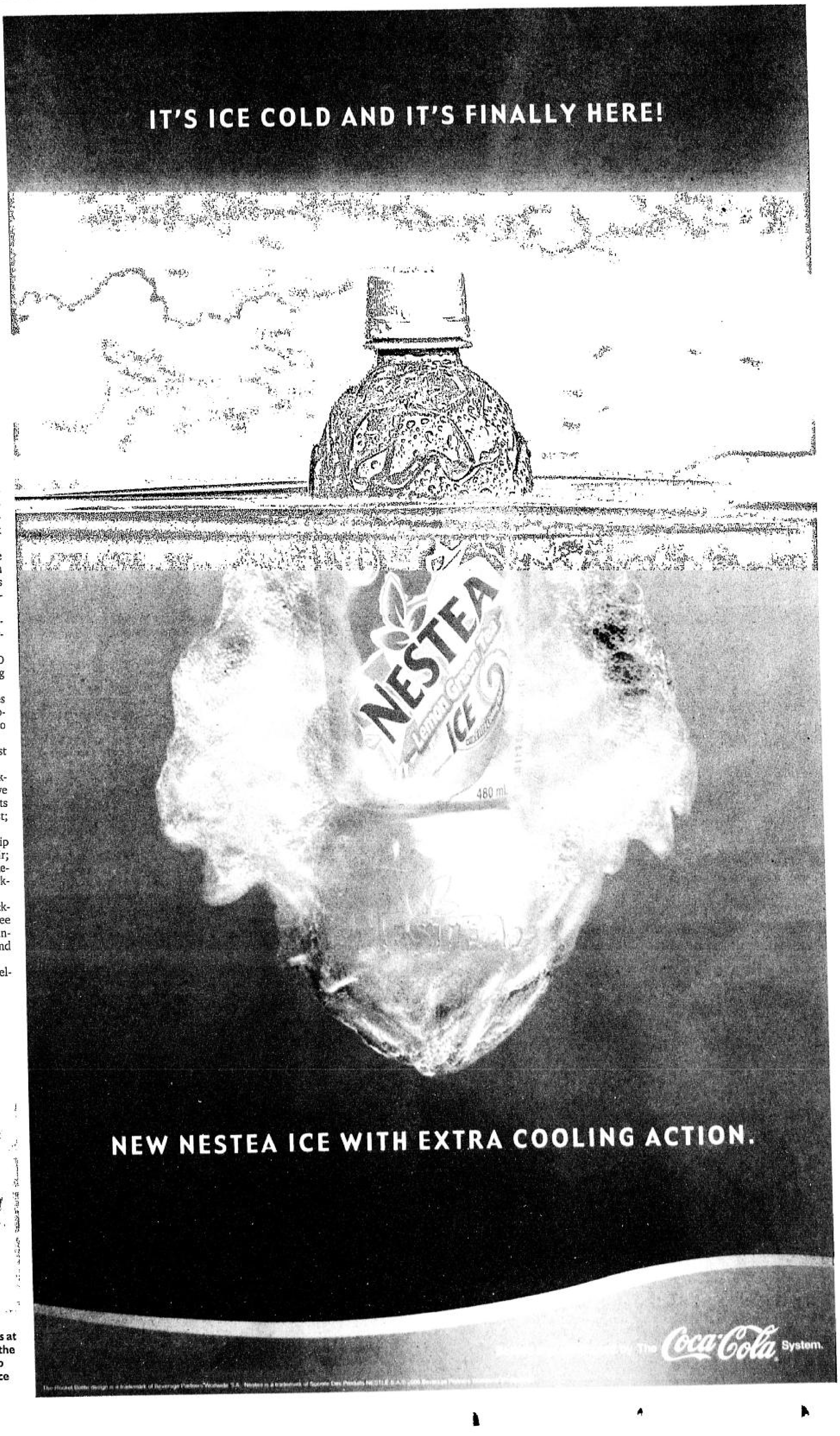
The second-prize winner gets round-trip tickets to Boracay for two courtesy of Seair; four days-three nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The third-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for two to Boracay courtesy of Seair; three days-two nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

For complete contest details, e-mail travelpromo@inquirer.com.ph



"MY HUSBAND and I were having a wonderful time playing in the clear waters at Station I when our friend, coming out of the Pearl of the Pacific Resort, took our photo without our knowledge."—Alex and Louce Ozoa



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MALCAPUYA Island

Stunning CORON

By Tess Dono
Contributor

THE PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGO is blessed with a variety of natural wonders and attractive tourist destinations, the rarest of which are found in the northern Palawan town of Coron, barely 10 hours away from Manila by Superferry or an hour by Seair or Asian Spirit.

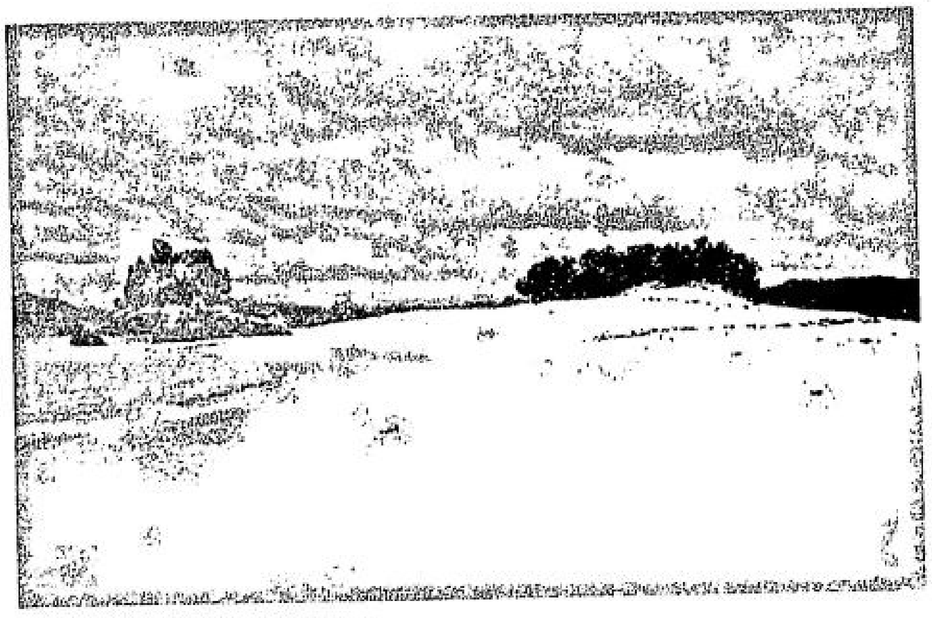
Calis Mountain, which is Coron Island itself, is the largest limestone formation on record. It is home to the indigenous people called Tagbanuas who have lived in this rocky terrain for centuries. Significantly, these well-sculptured mountain ranges are host to a number of white beaches which have remained unspoiled.

Calis Mountain itself is a crafty masterpiece of nature. Well-chiseled limestone cliffs adorn the sides of the mountain, with some taking the semblance of huge trophies floating on water. Clean seawater in green and blue surrounds these massive rock formations.

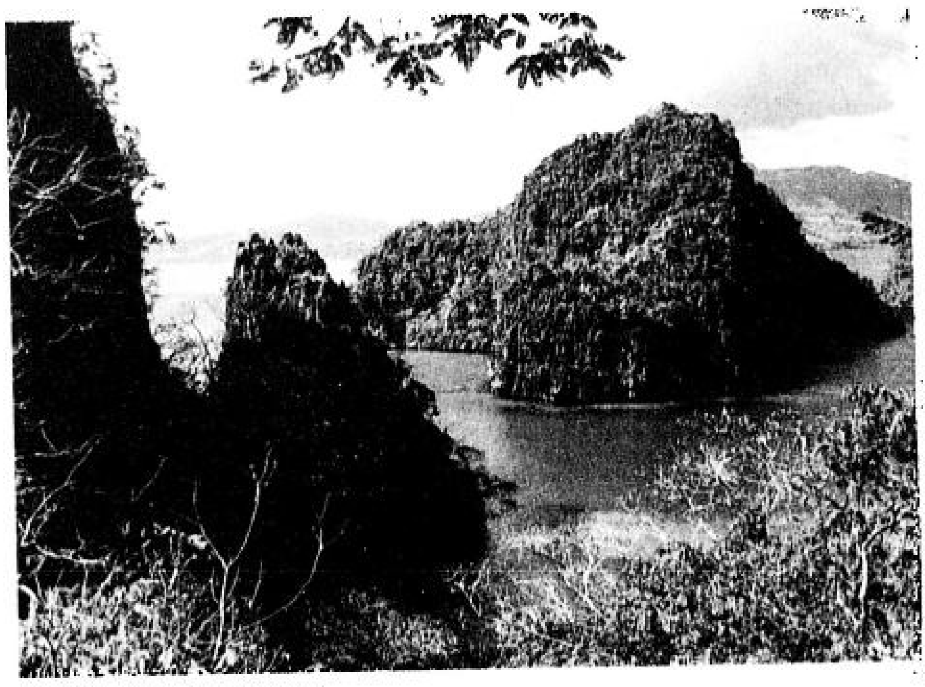
A clearance cut in between leads to an uphill climb to a lake called Cayangan. Dubbed as the cleanest lake in the country, Lake Cayangan is surrounded by solid walls of limestone cliffs, with a wonderful view of trees and vegetation clinging to them. Other lakes like Barracuda and Lake Tanigue are adjacent to the place.

As if intentionally made, another clearance through the Calis Mountain leads to the Twin Lagoon. The lagoon has inner and outer bodies of water, divided by limestone walls and connected by a small passage which is visible only at low tide. Deafening silence in a serene environment is experienced while inside the inner lagoon. The water is blue, clear and cool. In there, time seem to be on hold and the colorful view of the trees and vegetation struggling for space through the rocks could inspire and recharge the depleted spirit.

> The town's well-sculptured mountain ranges are host to a number of white beaches which have remained unspoiled



ISLANG Walang Lang-aw, Coron



KAYANGAN lake entrance

Ten minutes away is Siete Pecados, a formation of seven islets clustered in one place. Beauty lies underneath with a variety of corals inhabited by colorful tropical fishes. With the assistance of experienced guides, even non-swimmers can dive into the water to see and appreciate this underwater wonder.

Nearby is the rare Maquinit Hot Spring. Nestled in a mountainside, this salt-water hot spring is both therapeutic and effective as a skin treatment. The ever-flowing water at 40° C is captured in large pools. Maquinit is regularly visited by foreign tourists.

Fronting Busuanga Island where Coron town is located is Coron Bay. The enclosure of mountains and hills around it makes the bay ideal for game fishing, kayaking, jet ski, power boat, water ski and paddle boat competitions.

Meanwhile, Mt. Tapyas, at more than 2,000 ft above sea level, offers a spectacular view of Coron town and Harbor, together with the mountains and hills that surround it. Palawan Governor Joel T. Reyes, who hails from this town, has built 717 well-paved concrete steps that lead to a viewing deck.

This important Mt. Tapyas structure will soon be the venue for kite-flying contests, hang-gliding exhibitions, endurance races, painting and photography competitions, thanks to Coron's tireless leader, Mayor Marjo Reyes.

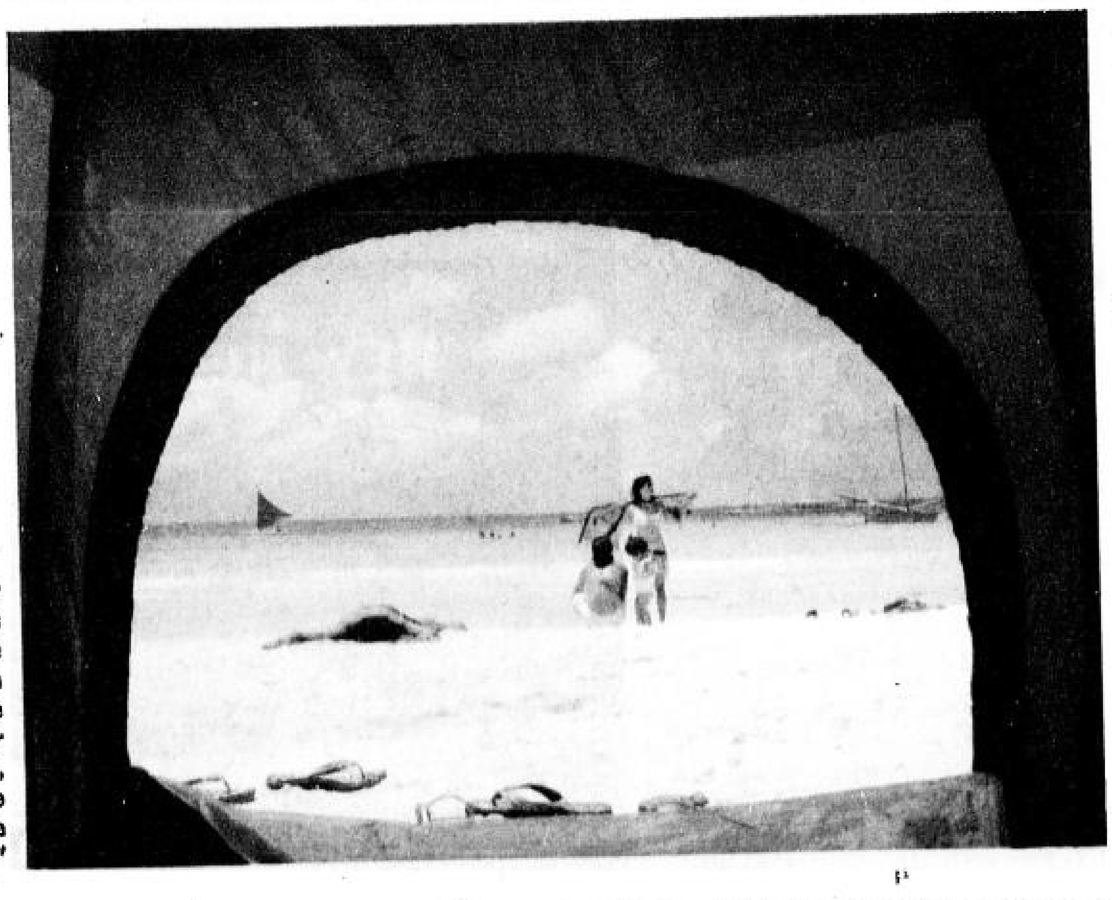
Within the Coron area are commercially developed resorts like Club Paradise, El Rio Y Mar and other resorts. These tourist sites, plus several white-sand beaches, lakes, hot springs and the majestic Calis mountain ranges, make up exciting contrasts of unspoiled natural beauty and man-made enhancements.

History has its own contribution to this remarkable town. In World War II, many retreating Japanese warships took cover in several islands of Coron. American planes found them and made the Coron waters their final resting place. Today, these locations are the favorite dive sites of local and foreign tourists. These sunken vessels are now home to a variety of marine life, both fishes and corals.

PalWonders (tel. 9950039 and 0919-2524685) can take you to stunning Coron for an inexpensive yet pleasurable weekend escapade.

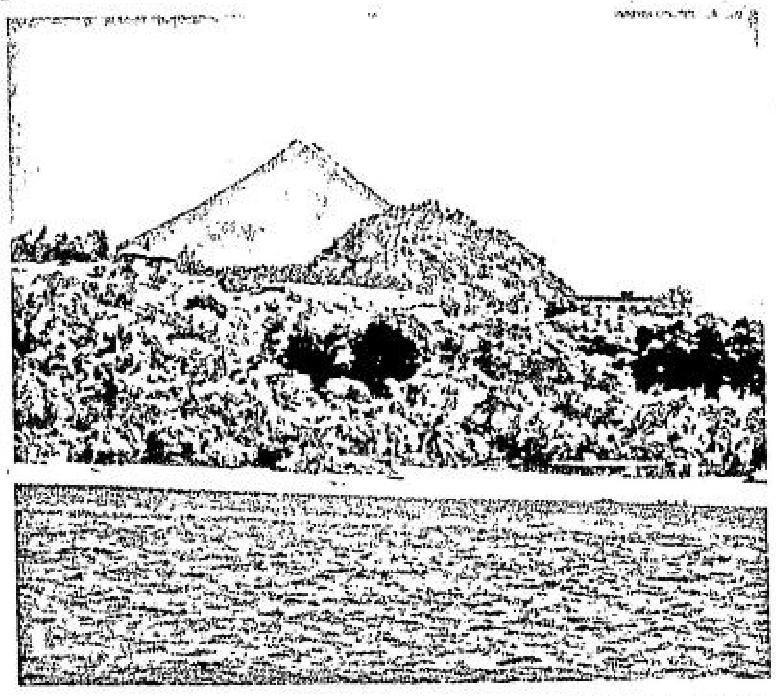
PDI-SUN VILLAGE-SEAIR PHOTO CONTEST

"BATHING BEAUTIES," submitted by Emilio L. Marañon III. On the one hand are *les* girls all in a row, of all sizes and shapes, making like they're in a chorus line and, on the other, the coconut trees swaying to the breeze.

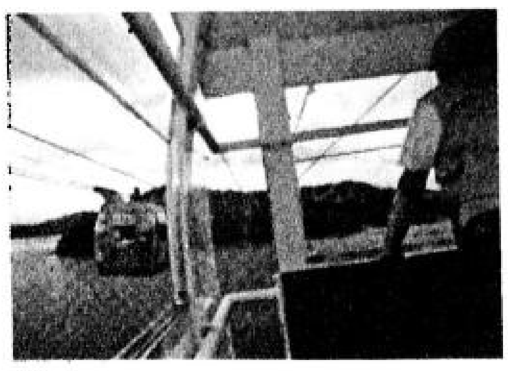


"MORNING TENT," submitted by Lester Lagos. "There was only a tent on the beach. Rey is lying on the sand while Angela and her daughter are playing, and CJ is enjoying the gentle breeze on her face."

MISIBIS is simply breathtaking.



VIEW of the Misibis beachfront from across the shore reveals Mayon Volcano's perfect cone accenting the white sandy beach and cool blue waters of the enclave.



THE MOST scenic and certainly most romantic way to get to Misibis Resort is by cable car. One of the ways visitors can reach the island resort is by riding on these airborne gondolas.

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TRAVELBRIEFS

Masbate rodeo set for April 7-10

Masbate, the Rodeo Capital of the Philippines, saddles up for the annual Rodeo Masbateño, April 7-10. Pinoy cowboys from all over the country—and a few from abroad—will showcase their lassoing and horseback-riding skills. The annual event is supported by the Department of Tourism. Launched in 1993 by the Rodeo Masbateño Incorporated composed of local ranchers and businessmen, Rodeo Masbateño aims to promote the province's cattle industry, investment opportunities and tourist attractions. Events include cattle lassoing on foot and on horseback, *carambola*, cattle-wrestling, bull-whipping and casting down. A Rodeo King and a Rodeo Queen will be chosen. This four-day event includes trade fair, exhibits, and the search for Miss Rodeo. Call 7293396 and 8930304.

New daily flight to Singapore

Tiger Airways, Singapore's low fare-airline, will have two daily flights to Manila (Clark) starting April 26. The new flight leaves at 0710 hours from Singapore and arrives at Manila (Clark) at 1045 hours. It will leave Manila (Clark) at 1115 hours and arrive in Singapore at 1445 hours. Seat sales for this new flight starts immediately at S$49.98 (about US$35.50) one way (excluding taxes). Tiger Airways is Singapore's largest and most popular low-fare airline, serving 13 cities in seven countries (Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Macau SAR, the Philippines, Australia and Indonesia). In April, it will fly to the Chinese cities of Guangzhou, Haikou and Shenzhen.

Airline starts flights to Hamburg

Emirates has inaugurated a new service to Hamburg, the airline's fourth gateway to Germany. The airline has existing flights to Munich, Frankfurt and Düsseldorf. Hamburg is specially significant for Emirates as it is hosting the 2006 FIFA World Cup, of which the airline is an official partner. The number of visitors from Germany to Dubai has grown rapidly, with more than 236,000 Germans visiting Dubai in 2004. Emirates will operate the Airbus A330-200 aircraft in a three-class configuration on the Hamburg route, offering 237 seats and 17 tons of bellyhold capacity. Meanwhile, Emirates is introducing a second daily nonstop service from Dubai to Düsseldorf on May 1. A 237-seat Airbus A330-200 aircraft will be used for the second nonstop service, configured in three classes. The new flight will also increase cargo capacity to Düsseldorf. The new daily flight is in direct response to the growing demand, especially with the 2006 FIFA World Cup in June in Germany. Emirates currently operates a Boeing 777-300 aircraft on the daily Dubai-Düsseldorf route. The addition of the second nonstop service offers Emirates' passengers greater flexibility.

"Dr. Maybelle A. Gallardo is the very first candidate to be conferred with a Doctor of Business Administration Degree by the Graduate School of the University of the East, Manila".

Haven for new breed of biz travelers

A NEW BREED OF BUSINESS TRAVELERS who want more comfortable, home-like accommodations made Oakwood Premier Ayala Center their top choice in 2005.

Serviced apartments, which are self-contained units with kitchen and seating facilities, have been responsible for a dramatic shift in travelers' preferences over the last decade, according to industry reports. Bridging the gap between hotels and full-blown property leases, these accommodations have won a loyal following especially among business travelers, notes Robert Rosetti, Oakwood general manager.

He cited Oakwood Premier Ayala Center, which enjoyed an 83.31-percent occupancy rate in 2005. The figure is significantly higher than the industry rate of 71 percent.

"Travelers are attracted to Oakwood because of our central location, larger and more comfortable spaces," explained Christine Gella, director of sales of Oakwood Ayala Premier Center.

A significant 87 percent of Oakwood's guests are business travelers. They appreciate the flexibility of Oakwood's rooms and know that all their needs will be served, whether they stayed for only a night or for extended periods.

Also of critical importance is Oakwood Premier Ayala Center's central location. It is in the heart of Makati and within walking distance of shopping malls, restaurants and the Makati Central Business District, headquarters of majority of the country's top 100 corporations.

According to Gavan James, Los Angeles senior vice president and general manager of Oakwood, the largest serviced apartment provider in the world, the industry is now worth $3 billion a year in the US alone. Of this, Oakwood claims $500 million.

"The growth of serviced apartments is really on a trend with travelers who want more comfortable and more home-like rooms," James told CNN Business Traveler, which recently featured Oakwood.

Although the serviced-apartment concept is only starting to gain popularity in the United States and Europe, it is well established in the Asia-Pacific Region. Oakwood Premier Ayala Center was established in 1998, the first of its kind to be built in the Philippines and the industry leader.

It has inspired other serviced apartments in the region where Oakwood is fast changing the skyline in many Asian cities with the construction of 12 new Oakwood properties in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand and Bangladesh. The new projects will bring 2,000 new units scheduled to be completed within the next two years.

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center has 306 rooms. Each unit has an entertainment area, broadband Internet access, a full kitchen and laundry facilities, plus other hotel facilities such as a health club, swimming pool, business center, meeting rooms and restaurant.

Call 7298888 or visit www.oakwood.com

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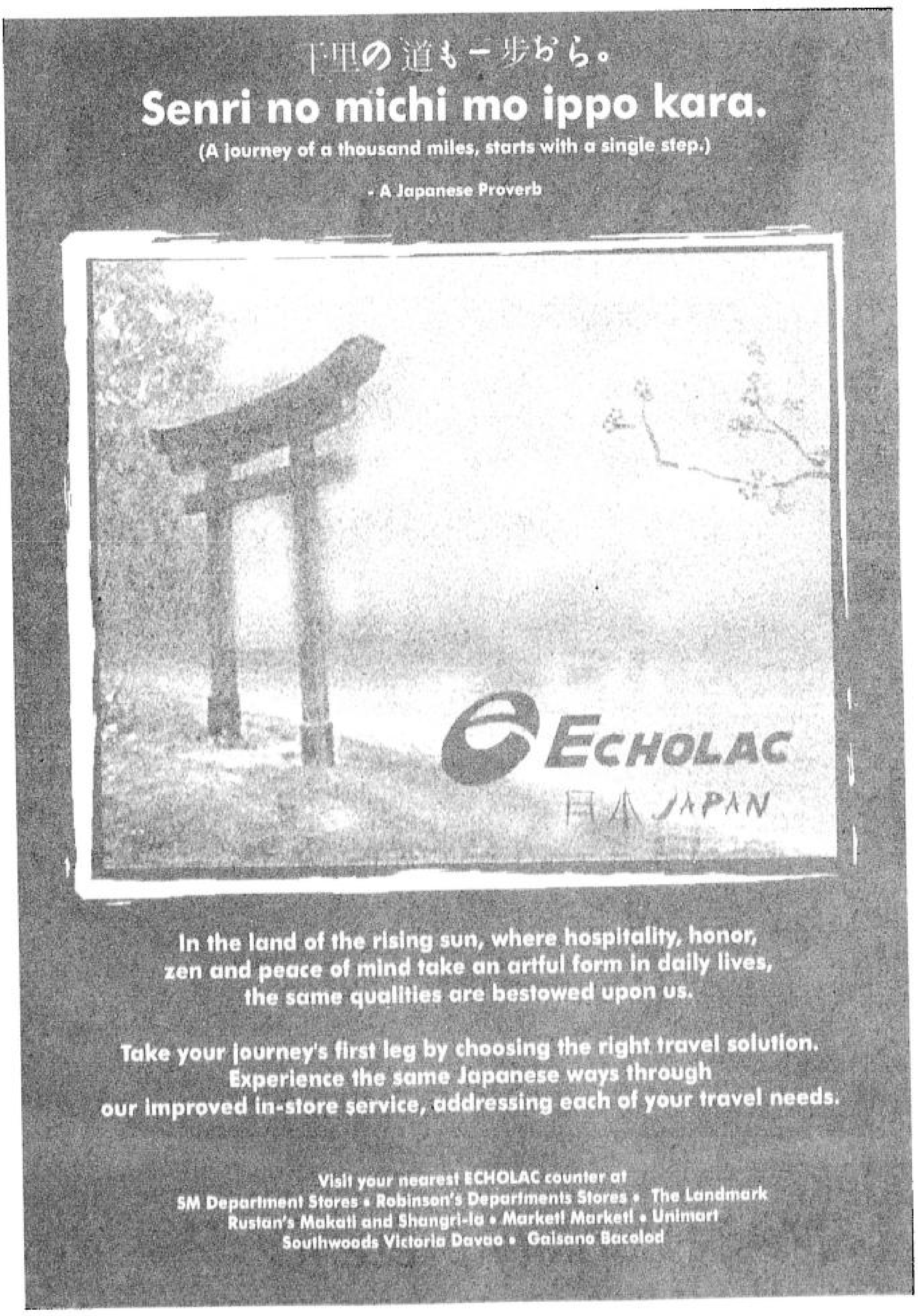

千里の道も一歩から。
Senri no michi mo ippo kara.
(A journey of a thousand miles, starts with a single step.)
- A Japanese Proverb

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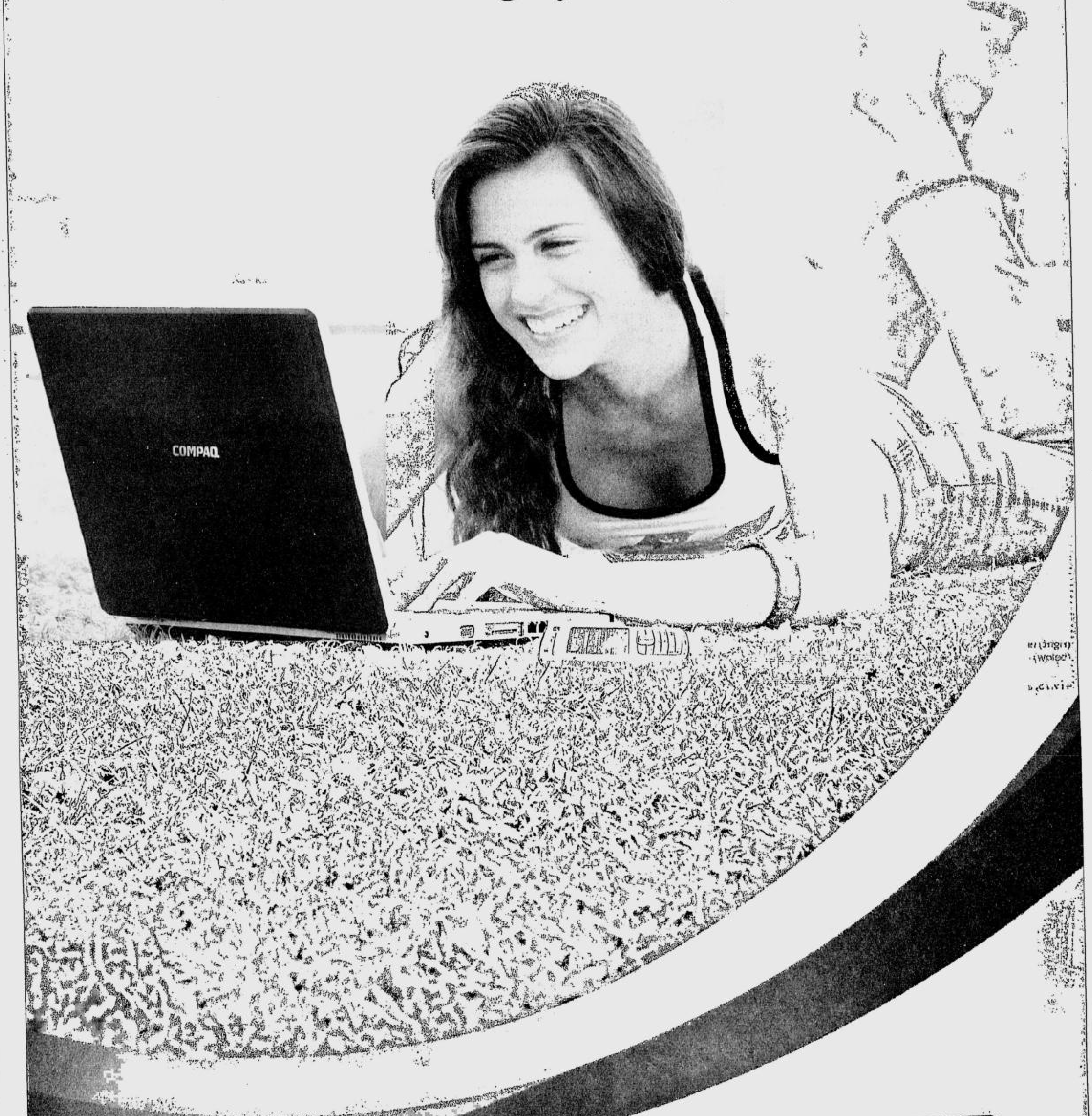

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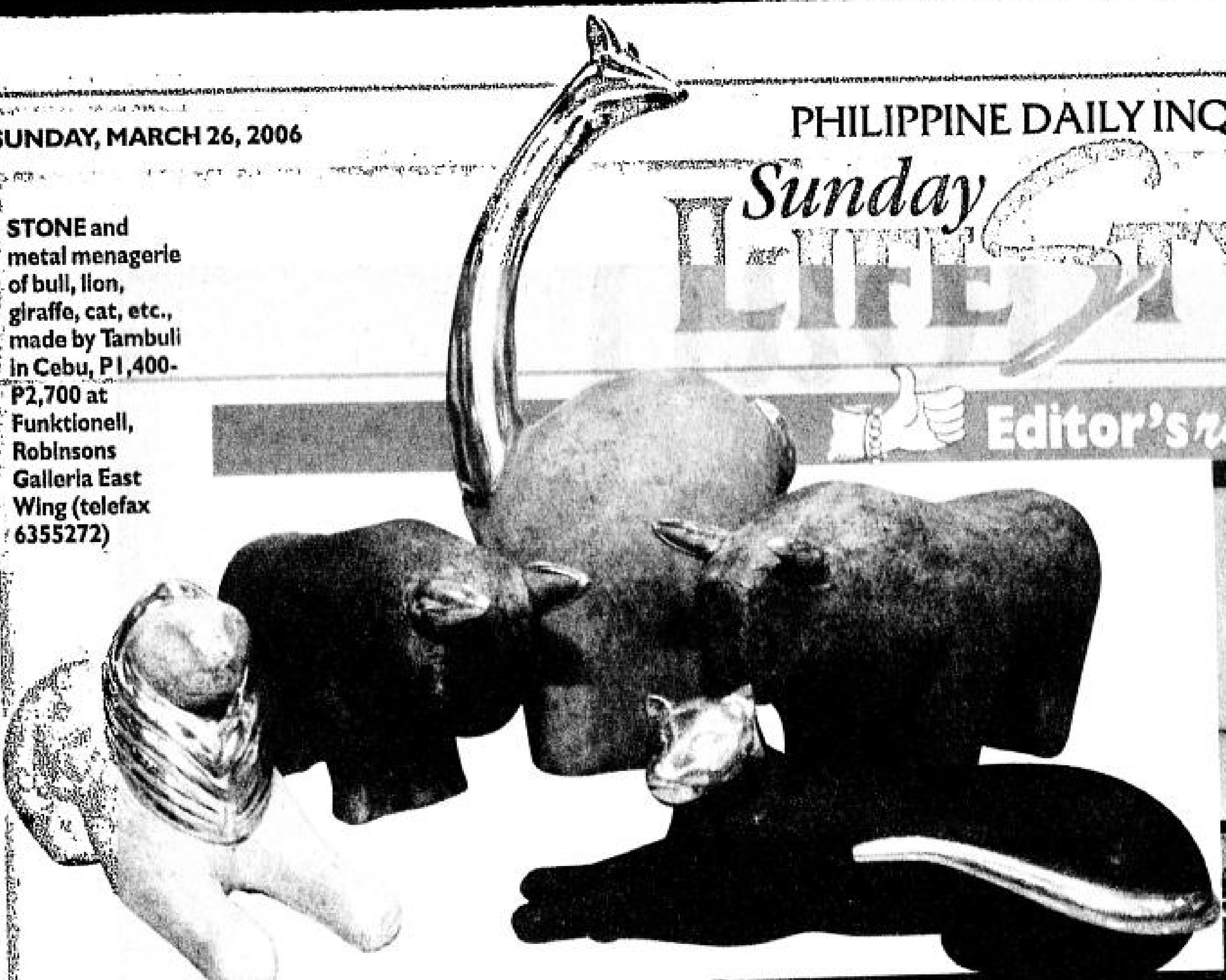
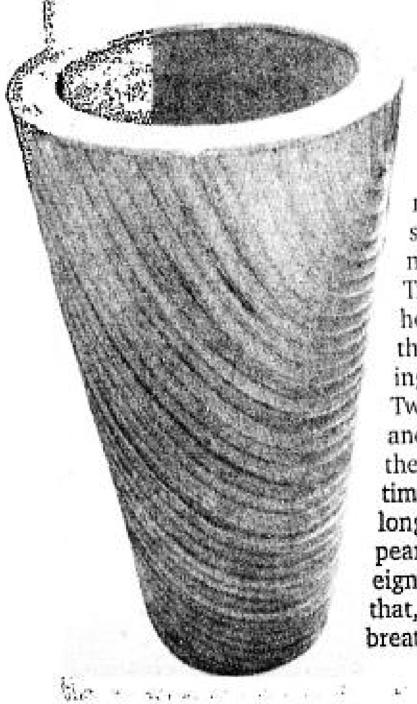


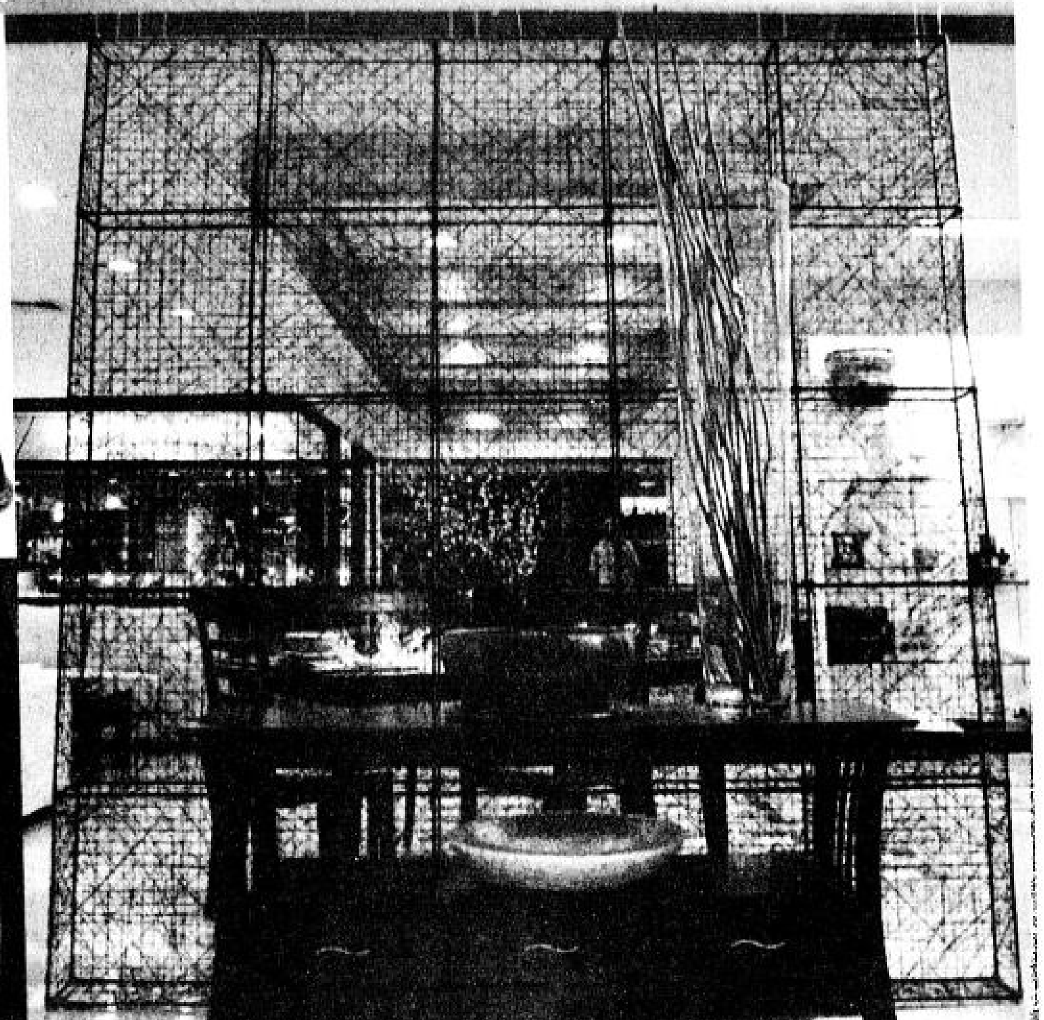
STONE and metal menagerie of bull, lion, giraffe, cat, etc., made by Tambuli in Cebu, P1,400-P2,700 at Funktionell, Robinsons Galleria East Wing (telefax 6355272)

islands

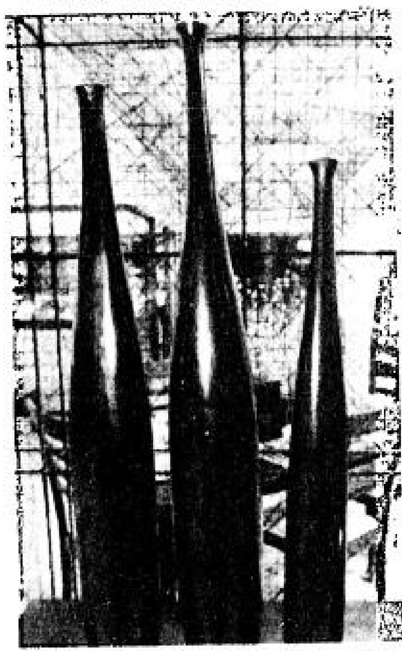
YOU'LL BE SURPRISED AT the kind of home décor on display in the stores now: Made-in-RP accessories designed with Asian pride and the new sharp edge of the present. Tropical has been topical in the home front for quite a while now, thanks to Citem's efforts in improving design and craftsmanship. Twice or thrice a year, our artists and artisans have been able to show their creations at trade fairs. And times and hearts have changed—no longer are fabulous capiz trays and pearl in-laid accessories made for foreign buyers. Check out these objects that, like a tropical breeze, can breathe life to your home. *–CBF*



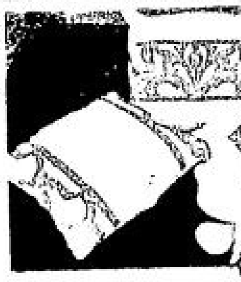
MOSAIC capiz vase P2,190; also fruit trays, available at Crossings home section, Shangri-La Plaza



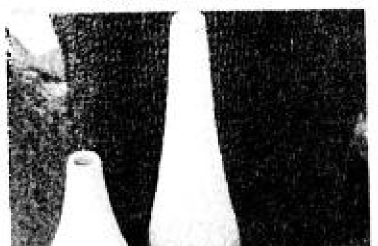
DRAMATIC black abaca strings and steel divider P10,928 (above); throw pillows with floral sequin patterns P379.75 each, all at Crossings home section



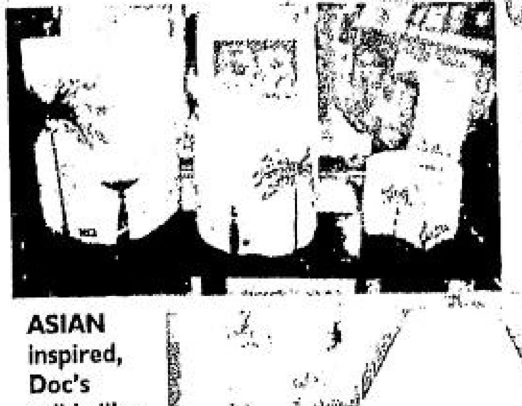
JUMBO planters made of (top) resin and abaca, P2,928 and (right) nito and metal, P3,920; (below) resin vases in three heights, P378.75, 392.75 and 419.75, all at Crossings



OKIR motif cotton canvas and cutout throw pillows, P359.75, at Crossings home section



SCULPTURED vases accentuated with abaca (top) or coconut straw (above) from the Kultura Filipino section, SM Makati



ASIAN inspired, Doc's solid pillar candles, slow-burning and scented, P349-499, at Robinsons Dept. Store home section

ENLIGHTENMENT lamps designed by Pilar Streegan with wood, rattan and black seed laminates, at Borders, Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Makati

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SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Shopping for a loan

By Cheche V. Moral

Applying for financing is easy if you and your spouse have good credit standing

WHEN YOU'VE FOUND A PROPERty you like, the next step is to find a way to finance your purchase.

Applying for a housing loan from banks and government agencies like Pag-ibig, SSS and, if you're a government employee, GSIS is easy: Banks, at a minimum, only require you to fill out an application form, submit a certificate of title (the owner/seller of the property you intend to buy will provide this), a non-refundable appraisal fee (usually around P3,000), a certificate of employment, a copy of your latest income tax returns (ITR) and a marriage certificate if married.

If you have your own business or you are a practicing professional, banks will ask for your business registration, audited financial statements, and personal references like your major clients or suppliers.

You will also need proof of other sources of income.

Government agencies will similarly ask for the same documents, and may require you to attend a one-hour seminar. You must have made a minimum of 24 monthly contributions with any of these agencies.

(Requirements for OFWs may vary for banks and government agencies.)

Note, however, that the easy part ends there. Even as these lenders say the minimum income requirement for a housing loan is P30,000 gross monthly income (or net for those engaged in business), you will still be subjected to a credit investigation.

So even if you don't disclose any existing loans (car loan, credit cards, office loans) in your application, the lenders have their means of unearthing this information.

It pays to have a spotless pay slip, notes a human resource officer, where deductions from your salary only include contributions to SSS, Pag-ibig and the like.

If you have had bad credit history, especially with credit card companies, it is advisable to settle this first. Otherwise, chances are your loan application will only be turned down. One spouse's bad credit may affect a married couple's application.

Also, if you apply for a loan with, say, Pag-ibig, make sure that remittances of your contributions are current (you can check this with your employer).

DREAM homes like these South Forbes Bali Mansions are affordable through bank financing but the amount you can borrow will depend on the appraised value of the property and your capacity to pay.

OUTDOOR lanai of South Forbes Bali mansion

But having other existing loans will not always hurt your chances of getting a loan, as long as you can prove your capacity to pay. Lenders will determine this not just to protect their interests, but also yours. This is to make sure that at least 40 percent of your net monthly income is left for your daily expenses after payments of all your monthly obligations.

Don't approach a bank just because it's the one nearest you. Bear in mind that mortgage companies have varied interest rates, so it's only logical to compare these to find the deal that will best suit your need and budget. *(See chart for sample rates.)*

Most banks don't require you to have an account with them to be given a loan. Of course, it will also work in your favor if you have a good business relationship with the bank in question.

Mortgage companies (lenders) normally lend 60-80 percent of the appraised value of the property (from P125,000 up to P25 million), with payment terms that range from 10-25 years, depending on the property you wish to purchase (longer terms may be granted for house and lot purchase, shorter for condominiums).

Remember that long-term is good only for the bank because it means the interest is greater, says Laurie Anne Adriano, head of PS-Bank-Pasong Tamo branch. However, it also means you will be shelling out less on a monthly basis, so it will be easier for you.

Interest rates vary from lender to lender, ranging from 9-16 percent, depending on the property you're buying and the payment term you choose. Make sure your loan officer explains this to you carefully.

Your interest rate may be fixed for a certain period, say 11 percent for the first five years, after which the lender will readjust depending on the current market rate (it could become higher, or lower if you're lucky).

The processing of loan applications can take an average of one month. The amount will be released either to you or the seller, in lump sum or in increments (say, 30-40-30), depending on the progress of construction.

Payment starts the month following the release of the full amount, either through post-dated checks, auto-debit (if you have an account with the bank), ATM or over-the-counter.

Banks may also charge you for some insurance premiums (mortgage redemption, fire/earthquake/lightning), mortgage registration fee, etc.

If you come across a large amount of cash, say you win the slot-machine jackpot, and wish to pay off more than your monthly mortgage, you can request a reconstruction (recalculation) of your loan. The consequent readjustment can only be good for you since lesser principal means lesser interest.

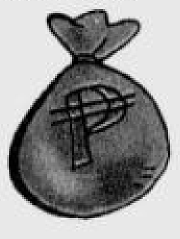
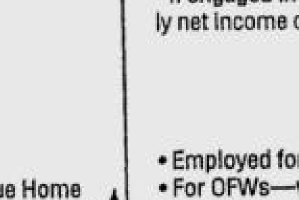
However, take note that some institutions, like Pag-ibig, will allow loan reconstruction only once throughout the loan term.

You also have to take into consideration the possibility of paying off your loan in full prior to the loan's maturity, say, if you win the Lotto jackpot. Make sure you understand the mortgage company's policy for loan prepayment. You could end up paying penalties.

Also, have your loan officer explain to you what will happen to any amount already paid in the case of foreclosure.

E-mail cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

HOUSING PROGRAMS, REQUIREMENTS AND TERMS

BANKS/HOUSING PROGRAM	REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS	LOANABLE AMOUNTS	INTEREST RATES	TERMS
Equitable-PCI Bank Own a Home Financing Plan	• At least 21 years old but not more than 65 years old upon loan maturity • Permanently employed with a minimum monthly income of P30,000 • Practicing professionals or engaged in business operating profitably for at least 2 years with a minimum disposable income of P30,000 • Depositor of the bank	P500,000 or 70% of the appraised value of the property and 60% of appraised value for condominiums A	Prevailing rate at the time the loan was made with an option to fix the interest rate for up to 5 years	• 20 years for purchases of house and lots, townhouses, and house constructions and renovations • 7 years for the purchase of residential lots
BPI-Family Bank Build Your Dream Housing Loan-Acquisition Plan	• Any individual of legal age but not more than 65 years old upon maturity of loan with a monthly income of at least P30,000	P400,000 up to an amount equivalent to 70% of the appraised value of the vacant lot, house and lot or residential condominium	Initial rate is based on the prevailing housing loan rate while the succeeding rates will be fixed yearly based on the 364-day Treasury bill rates plus a 4% spread.	Maximum of: • 20 years for house and lot • 10 years for vacant lots • 10 years for residential condominiums
Social Security System Individual Housing Loan	• Active SSS member with at least 12 months of continuous premium contributions or at least 24 months worth of total contributions • Not more than 65 years old • No previously granted housing loan from SSS, GSIS, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. or Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-ibig) • Up-to-date in the payment of all dues and SSS loan amortizations; employer must be up-to-date in the payment of monthly contributions and loan remittances	Maximum of P500,000	9% per year for loans up to P180,000 13%—subject to review after every five years—for loans over P180,000-P500,000	Loan is payable in multiples of five up to a maximum of 30 years
HSBC Philippines Home Loan	• At least 3 years of residency in the Philippines • Property to be mortgaged is located within Metro Manila, Cebu, Cavite, Bulacan, Batangas, Laguna or Rizal. • At least 21 years old and not more than 65 years old upon maturity of the loan • Employed for two years or, if self-employed, the business should be operating profitably for three consecutive years • Minimum monthly income of P50,000.	P500,000-P20 million B	Based on repricing periods, borrowers can choose to fix the interest rates to be charged from among these: 3 months at 9.75%, 1 year at 10.75%, 2 years at 11.50%, 3 years at 12%, 5 years at 12.50%	1 to 20 years to pay
Pag-ibig Housing Loan Retail-consolidated Pag-ibig Housing Loan Program	• Must be a member of Pag-ibig I or II program for at least two years and with 24 monthly contributions or a Pag-ibig Overseas Program member for at least one year with 12 monthly contributions • Not more than 65 years old upon loan maturity • Passed the satisfactory background/credit and employment/business checks • No outstanding Pag-ibig housing loan—either as principal borrower or co-borrower • No outstanding Pag-ibig multipurpose loan in arrears at the time of loan	P125,000 to P2 million. 	Two-tiered Interest Rate C • 6%: P125,000-150,000 • 9-11%: P150,000-P225,000 • 10-12%: over P225,000-P500,000 • 12-14%: over P500,000-P2 million- Repricing C Loans are fixed for the first five years at: • 12-14%: P225,000-P500,000 • 14-16%: over P500,000-P2 million	• Up to 30 years for P500,000 loan • Up to 20 years for loans over P500,000-P2 million For overseas workers: • Maximum of five years for those who have been members for five years and • Maximum of 10 years for those who have been members for ten years
GSIS-Housing Program (BKP Regular)	• Active in government service and a holder of GSIS Policy contract • Has not reached the compulsory retirement age • Has no outstanding housing loan with GSIS • Up-to-date in the payment of premiums • Employer must be up-to-date in the remittance of contributions. • For temporary, co-terminus, contractual and casual employees: must have at least 5 years of continuous service	Amount equivalent to the LOWEST of the following: • Amount applied for• Borrower's actual need • Capacity to pay• Valuation of the collateral	• 8%: P180,000 and below D • 10%: P180,000-P300,000 D • 12%: over P300,000 D	• Maximum of 30 years for loans P180,000 and below • Maximum of 25 years for loans over P180,000
PS Bank (Home Rate Protect)	•In individuals, sole proprietorships, partnerships or family corporations • Must have a gross family income of at least P25,000 a month • If engaged in business, it should be operating profitably for two years with a monthly net income of P25,000	P500,000-P25 million	Borrowers can choose to fix the interest rates to be charged from among these: 1 year at 10.25% 2 years at 11% 3 years at 11.25% 5 years at 11.50%	• 10 years: vacant lot • 20 years: single-detached house, townhouse, condominium and duplex
Banco De Oro (BDO Super Value Home Loan) 	• Employed for three consecutive years • For OFWs—with contract to work for at least two years • For self-employed—business should have been profitable for the past two years.	Minimum of P500,000 or maximum: • 80% of the appraised value for house and lot or townhouse • 70% of the appraised value for vacant lot or condominium unit	Interest rate is based on the prevailing market rate with an option to fix the rate from one to 5 years. At the end of the fixed term, prevailing market rates will apply.	• 15 years for house and lot, townhouse and condominium unit • 7 years for vacant lot
Metrobank (Metro Home Financing)	• Of legal age and not over 65 years old upon loan maturity •Gross monthly family income of at least P30,000 •Permanently employed in a reputable company for the last 2 years, or owns a business operating profitably for the last 3 years	• Up to 70% of the property's appraised value	Interest rates may be fixed for 1, 2, 3 or 5 years	• Maximum of 20 years for the purchase of house and lot or townhouse •Maximum of 15 years for purchase of condominium, refinancing and renovation • Maximum of 10 years for lot purchase

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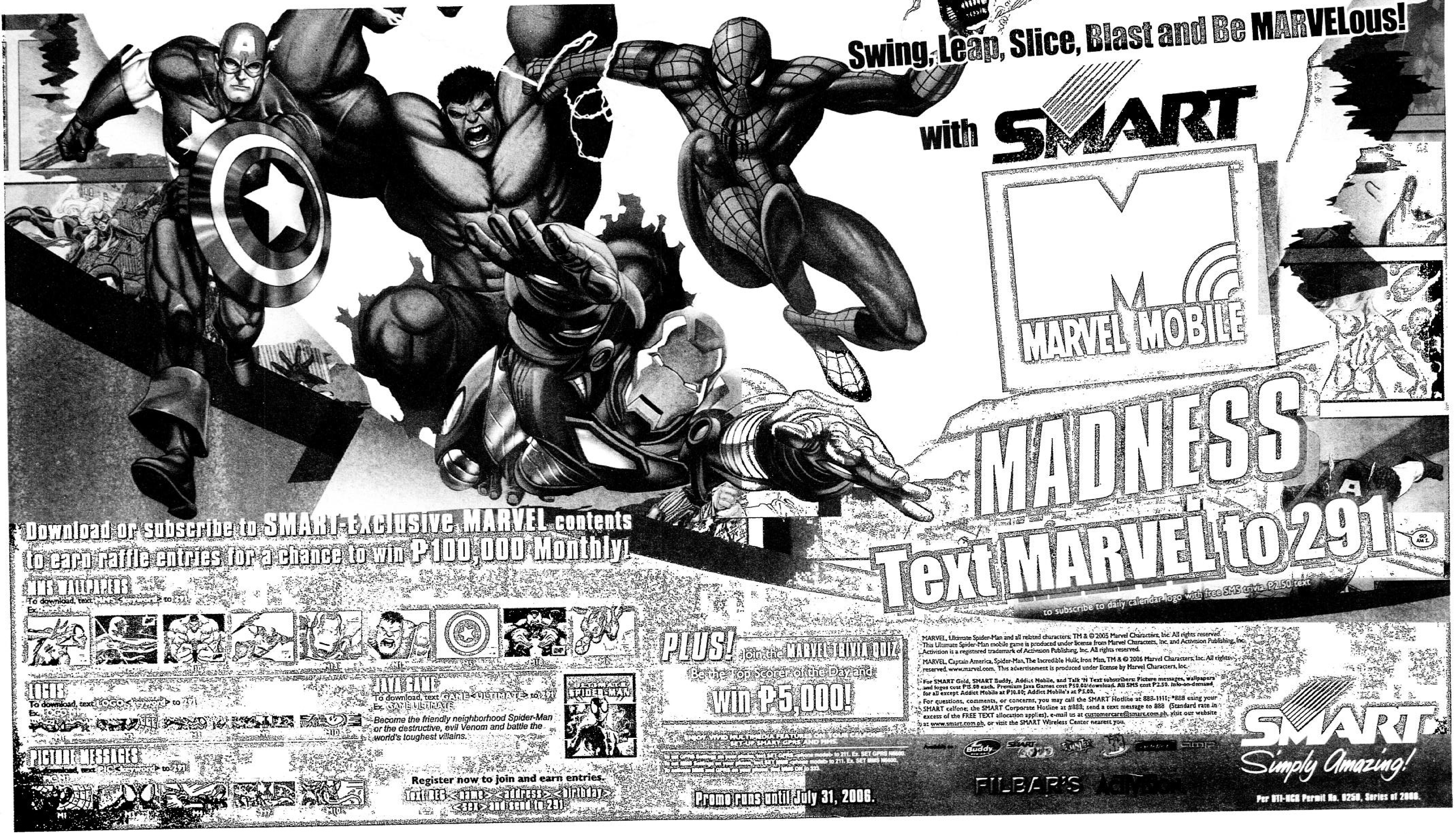
Compiled by Chona B. Galang, PDI Research



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HOME depot is a twin-level, fully enclosed and well-ventilated structure offering hardware, appliances, tools, furniture, etc.

THE NEW WESTgate Alabang Home Depot on the Alabang-Zapote Road is now fully operational with more stores to serve homeowners and builders south of Metro Manila.

Built on an 11,000-square meter lot, the depot is a twin-level, fully enclosed and well-ventilated structure offering architectural hardware, appliances, tools, equipment, blinds and curtains, fabrics and upholstery, furniture, lighting and electrical fixtures, etc.

Complementing the builder's superstore are specialty shops and showrooms.

The Westgate Alabang Home Depot is the fourth branch after Cebu Home and Builders in Cebu City, Mactan Home and Builders in Mactan, Cebu, and Ortigas Home Depot on Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Pasig City.

The Westgate Alabang Home Depot is owned and operated by CW South Builders Supply Corp., a joint venture of Cebu Oversea Hardware Co. Inc. and Westpoint Industrial Co. The fully air-conditioned Westgate Alabang Home Depot is open daily 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

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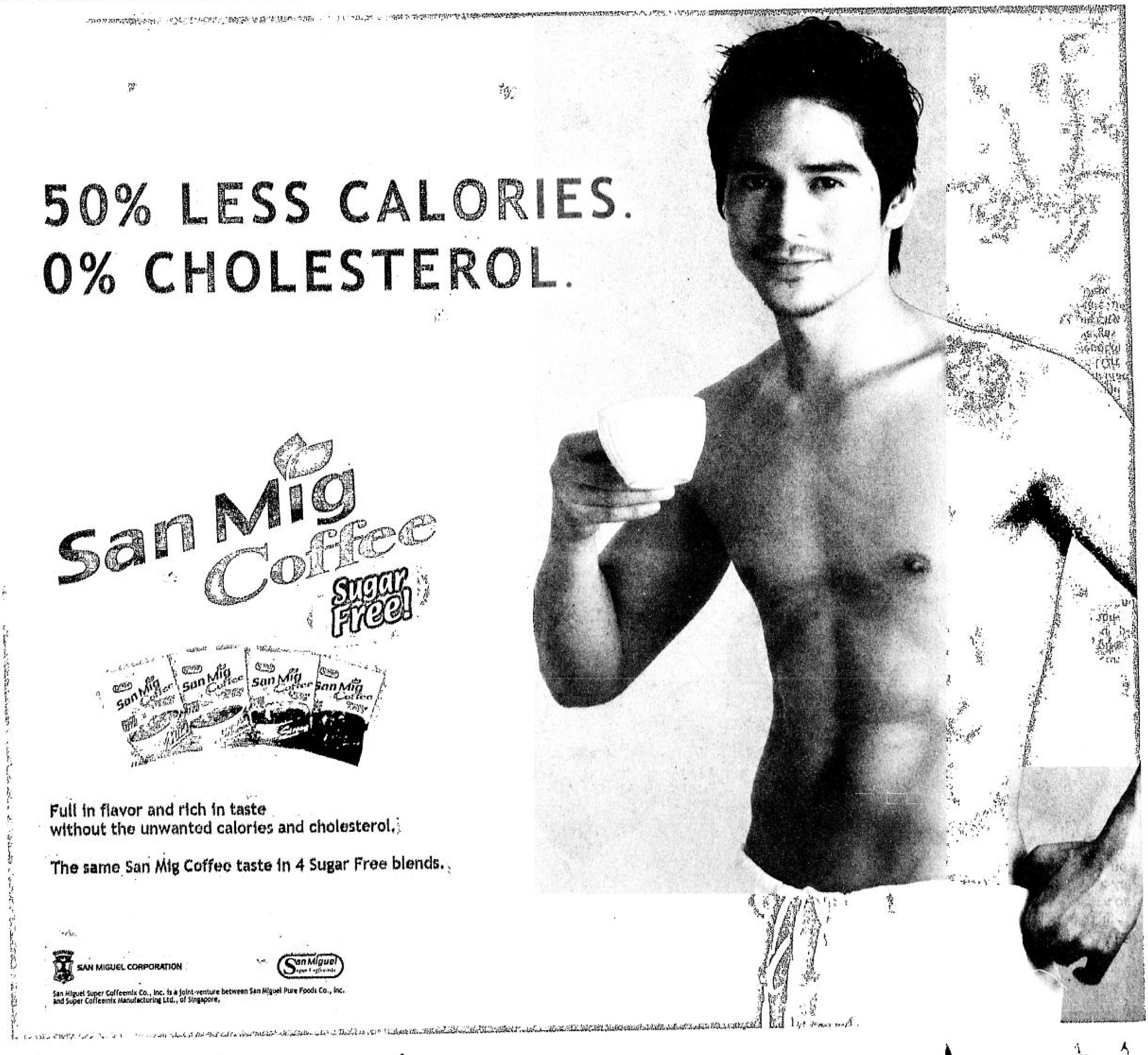
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Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

EAST-DEL ROSARIO

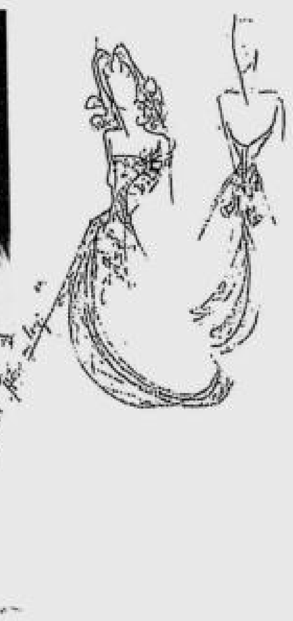
John Albert East of California, US, married **Agnes Maria Oliva V. del Rosario** of Novaliches, QC, on Jan. 21, at Santisimo Rosario Parish (UST), España, Manila. Reception was held in Quezon City.

DEL ROSARIO-DIMACULANGAN

Brian del Rosario, son of **Bob** and **Edith del Rosario,** recently wed **Marianne Dimaculangan,** daughter of **Manuel** and **Pursia Dimaculangan,** at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. Msgr. Daniel Sta. Maria officiated the wedding. Reception was held at Oasis.

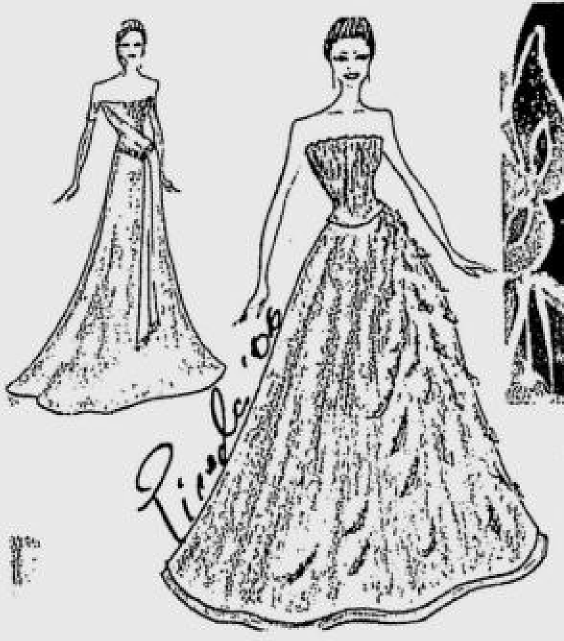
BARBOSA-BAGUIO

Gilbert Barbosa, son of **Onofre** and **Violeta Barbosa,** recently exchanged vows with **Ana Riza Baguio,** daughter of **Rosano** and **Alicia Baguio,** at Saints Peter and John Parish Church in Potrero, Malabon. Reception followed at Casa Roman in Marulas, Valenzuela. **Don Paolo,** a digital photo and video filmmaker in Valenzuela City, chronicled the event.



SALES DEBUT

Melissa April Manalo Sales, daughter of **Manolito** and **Felissa Sales,** will celebrate her 18th birthday on April 8, at Casa de Sales, Tangob, Lipa City. She is a first-year pharmacy student at Centro Escolar University. Her gown is designed by **Janine Hernandez,** hair and makeup by Rea, catering by Malens and photo-video by Ellen's Studio, Lipa City.



REGIS DEBUT

Jasmin Mei Regis, daughter of **Joonie** and **Marilou Regis,** will celebrate her 18th birthday on March 26, at the Visayas Ballroom of Hotel Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Pasay. **Eric Pineda** designed two Medieval-inspired gowns for the debutante. The first gown has an off-shoulder bodice in burgundy silk with lemon and saffron crushed pleated chiffon. The second gown features a strapless bodice using crinkled forest-green silk with a full-bias skirt in honeycombed organza.

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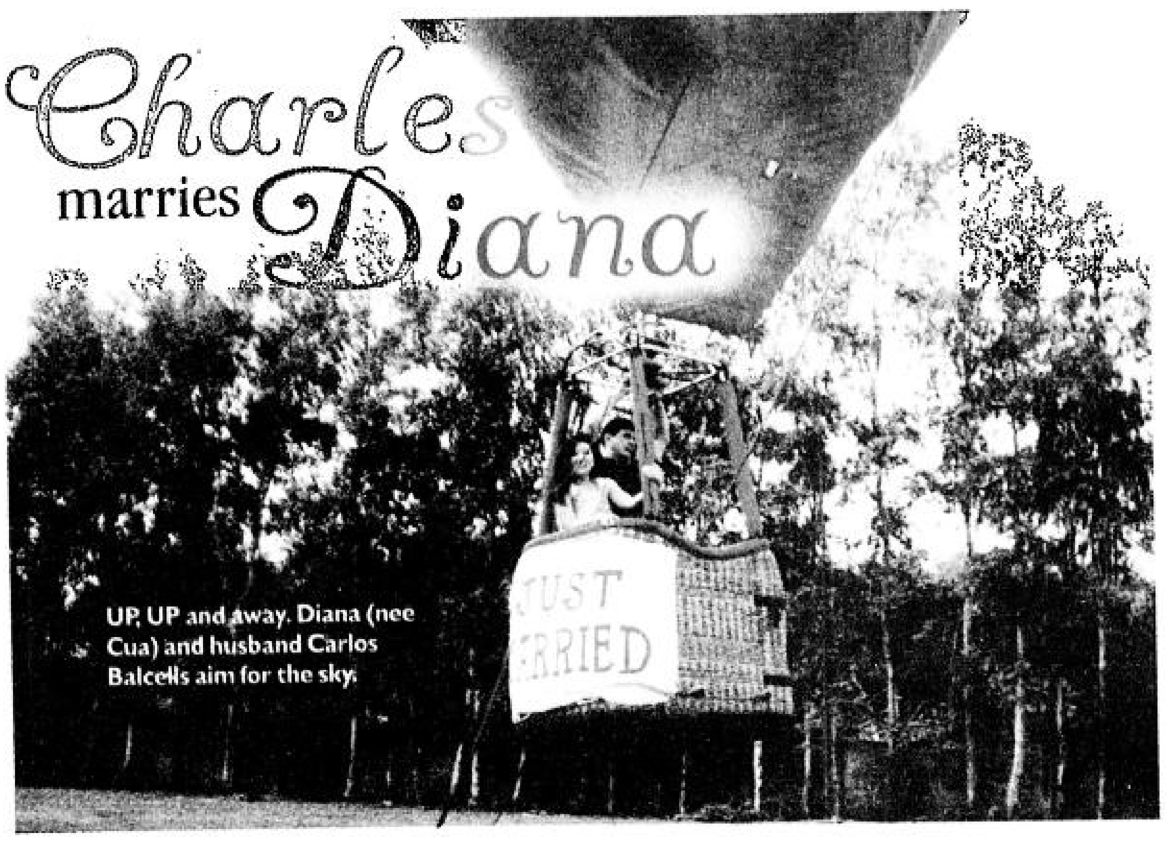
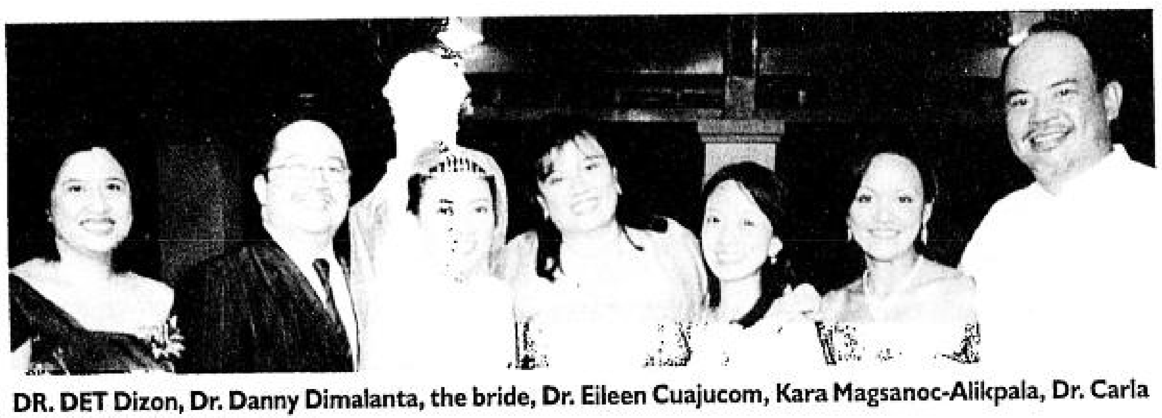
SOUTH'S old-wealth Balcells *famille*: Alfonso from Australia; Eduardo; the bride and groom; mother of the groom, Doña Carmita Lacson Claparolls Balcells; and Anna Balcells

Charles marries Diana



UP, UP and away. Diana (nee Cua) and husband Carlos Balcells aim for the sky.

PARENTS of the bride: Florentina Cua and taipan Sofronio Cua with the couple



DR. DET Dizon, Dr. Danny Dimalanta, the bride, Dr. Eileen Cuajucom, Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, Dr. Carla Chuatico and Paul Chuatico

BOSOM BUDDIES and Cancer Support group members include Tingting Cojuangco, Dr. Stefanie Jeffrey and Dr. Nina Ingles (seated, right)

By Maurice Arcache

THE AWESOME ancestral home of the family of **Aniceto Lacson** was aglow when one of the South's eligible bachelors, good-looking **Carlos Balcells,** took eminent cancer specialist Diana Cua for his bride.

In the house's private chapel, Manille's "powdered set" gushed when they saw the all-white floral arrangement, superbly executed by **Tima Lacson** and **Millie Kilayko**. The ancient walls and dark teak carvings brought everyone back to an era when life was grandioso.

As a long line of Benzes, BMWs, Jags and limos drove up through the sugarcane fields, hacienda lasses dressed in festive *patadyong* dirndl skirts and bell-sleeved *kimonas* that they sewed themselves for this very special occasion, escorted the hotshot VIP invitees to the pew.

The smell of *sampaguita*, *rosal*, Easter lilies and white roses was intoxicating, *palanggas*.

The groom's sister, **Anna B.**, who reintroduced her doctor to her brother (the first introduction was made by his close pal and best man Dr. **Rafael Jocson**), escorted the groom to the altar. Everyone noticed the special glow on the groom's face, while the bride was cool as a cucumber.

Officiating at the nuptials were "the famous," articulate and adorable Fr. **Bernard Ybiernas** and Msgr. **GG Gaston**.

An emotional moment was when Father Bernard, in his homily, asked the congregation to remember the groom's father, Sr. Don **Alberto Balcells**, and sang the Catalan signature hymn, "El Canto de las Pajaros," bringing tears to the eyes of the whole Balcells clan. Even Doña **Carmita** had a faraway look, as she listened to the refrain.

Nervous groom

But the mood lightened when the groom asked permission to read his wedding vows, because he was too nervous to memorize them. Everyone laughed and applauded as Balcells' voice cracked when he said, "I do!" Eyes popped when he dropped the wedding arras coins.

The poor groom definitely wanted to get the ceremonies over and done with and just kiss his bride. And when he did kiss the bride, the whole congregation stood up and applauded, whistled and howled.

From the century-old ancestral house, the wedding party moved to the modern, tropical chi-chi Ayala Plantazione Clubhouse for the grand reception.

HAPPY, adorable newlyweds: Mr. and Ms Carlos Balcells

Judging from the hotshots who jetted in for the occasion, this was definitely a high-society affair. Bacolod's Paris-bred world traveler and social arbiter for Bacolod's Star Daily, **Eduardo Garcia**, approved completely, dahlings.

Who were there? The name-droppable wedding sponsors, *palanggas*, included legendary beauty icon, the original cucumber-cool gal **Tingting Cojuangco** in a crisp, ruffled lace gown, with daughter, another eye-catcher, Dr. **Liaa C. Bautista**; former Sen. **Loren Legarda** in a slim couture satin sheath; classic beauty **Marge Huenefeld** in bright fuschia; Manille's old-wealth **Jojo Zabarte** in a pink organza cache-coeur neckline and dowager pearls; porcelain beauty and aunt of the bride **Lucia Ong**; world-famous heart surgeon **Jorge Garcia**, chair of Asian Hospital, Washington Heart and co-chair of Georgetown University Cardiothoracic department; taipan and banker **Ramon Sy,** president of I-Bank; Barcelona-based cousin of the groom **Jose Luis Balcells**; and real estate magnate uncle of the groom **Javier Lacson**.

THE BRIDE'S sister, maid of honor Tifani Cua, with Jenny Ki, bridesmaid and designer of the dress

> The groom read his wedding vows because he was too nervous to memorize them

Dancing girls

Young royals **Cita Revilla-Yabut**, Shakey's vivacious **Pilar Prieto-Lorenzo**, Sydney's dazzler **Patty Lamb-Rodriguez** and **Maribelle Belo-Espino** had a blast on the dance floor with high-school gang mate **Risa de la Rama**.

US Embassy Consul for Agriculture **David Miller** came with **Alexandra** and **Theresa Miller.** Solar publisher **Monica Aveo** and **Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala** represented the literary pack. Retail queen **Therese Santos** of the Cinderella chain was fashionably swathed in bruised aubergine. Well-dressed blonde beauty **Sigalit Djemal**, close pal of the bride, inspired jokes about a love triangle—the groom who is "Charles" to friends, his bride Diana, and Sigalit who we called "Camilla." All three enjoyed the joke, *palanggas*.

Eligible bachelor **Aly Oppen** came with his steady date, **Maite Elordi. Cookie Montenegro** and **Laurita Narcue** wore European designer gowns.

The wealthy Cua clan was complete with **Franklin** and **Elizabeth Tan; Luis, Robert, Cesar,** Dr. **Leoncio, Janelle, Zeny, Kim** and lawyer **Julie**; with the bride's proud parents, Don **Sofronio** and Doña **Florentina.**

The Balcells were also in full force with the groom's *muy simpatica* mama, Doña **Carmita,** and siblings **Alfonso,** brilliant **Anna** and **Eduardo**, making sure the invitees were royally entertained. We were, *palanggas*.

A hot-air balloon was ready to take off with the lovebirds but the wind was too strong, so the newlyweds opted to just watch the fireworks and dance to the Latin beat of Grupo Man Teves. The select guests dipped fresh fruit into a chocolate fountain and drank champagne.

We were not alone in enjoying the wedding, *palanggas*. Hacienda workers feasted, too, as several calves and pigs were butchered, and tons of soft drink, juices and beer were served.

As in all fun, romantic weddings, we all sighed and applauded when the new Mr. and Ms Carlos "Charles" Balcells kissed and kissed and danced till dawn, *palanggas*.

Ah, ain't love grand.

ANKI Soler, Rante Aguil, the newlyweds, Maribelle Belo-Espino, Sydney-based Patty Lamb-Rodriguez and Isa Lorenzo. Seated: Cita Revilla-Yabut, Rose Ferro, Risa Locsin-de la Rama, Pilar Prieto-Lorenzo and Tonette Apacible-Humphries

THE COUPLE with principal sponsors Stanford-based breast surgeon Dr. Stefanie Jeffrey, Lucia Ong, eye-catching Loren Legarda, Marge Huenefeld, Jojo Zabarte and cucumber-cool Tingting Cojuangco

DR. TESS Tangkeko-Lopez, Dr. Gary Lopez, Dr. Carmel Ongsiako-Isabela, young business whiz Noel Bautista and wife Liaa Cojuangco-Bautista; Dr. Romeo Nuguid, Dr. Paolo Lorenzo and Dr. Francis Lopez

HOT, HOT male sponsors included business magnate Dr. Jorge Garcia, Jose Luis Balcells, banker Ramon Sy, Dean Lao and Edison Cham

‘Gospa’ asks for prayer and fasting for world peace

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

ALMOST 25 YEARS AFTER THE BLESSED Virgin Mary appeared to six teenagers in Medjugorje in 1981, her message remains the same: the need to pray for peace in the world, to convert sinners and to reconcile with God through confession.

Praying the Rosary everyday is a must and fasting on Wednesday and Friday, eating only bread and drinking water, can be done as sacrifice.

In the book “Medjugorje: the Message” written in 1989 by Wayne Weible, a Lutheran Protestant newspaper publisher and journalist, I discovered what happened during the first few years when the Virgin Mary came everyday to this tiny village in central Yugoslavia.

LETTERS FROM
MEDJUGORJE

Maria Pavlovic, Vicka Ivankovic, Mirjana Dragicevic, Ivanka Ivankovic, Ivan Dragicevic and Jakov Colo are all adults now, but they can still recall vividly what happened on the early evening of June 24, 1981, when the *Gospa* (the Croatian name of the Virgin Mary) appeared to them.

I was blessed to visit Medjugorje with some pilgrims in 2001 through Arpex Travel. With the help of Robert Puckett, I was able to join the group. Robert told me I should experience Medjugorje.

I was glad I did. I could really feel the presence of the Virgin Mary inside St. James Church, which was packed with pilgrims, mostly Europeans and Americans. I must say I was deeply touched by the Eucharistic celebration with priests reading the Gospel of the day in different languages. Our priest, Fr. Gene Rafal, read the Gospel in Filipino.

A clear manifestation that I was converted from my way of life was, when I came back, I went to Mass everyday. The book of Wayne Weible made the Medjugorje experience of the past 25 years clearer. Weible wrote five more books on Medjugorje. Though a Protestant who should focus on Jesus alone, he believes that what is happening in that village is real.

Weible answered the call to propagate the miracle in Medjugorje, bringing pilgrims there and giving talks in different places. His whole life centers on this phenomenon. To order his books, especially “Medjugorje: the Message,” please e-mail weiblecols@bellsouth.net.

Program

Virginia Villahermosa hosts the television program “Medjugorje—Food for the Soul” on Fil-Products Television Cable Services in Dumaguete at 3 p.m. Saturdays, with replays at 7 p.m. Sunday and 8:30 p.m. Thursday. The radio program “Medjugorje-Paghain sa Kalag” is aired at 4 p.m., Sunday, on Catholic radio station DYWC.

Message

“Dear children! In this Lenten time of grace, I call you to open your hearts to the gifts that God desires to give you. Do not be closed but, with prayer and renunciation, say ‘yes’ to God and He will give to you in abundance. As in springtime the earth opens to the seed and yields a hundredfold, so also your heavenly Father will give to you in abundance. I am with you and love you, little children, with a tender love. Thank you for having responded to my call.” (From Our Lady of Medjugorje)

Pilgrimage

Filipinos traveling to Medjugorje have to get their visas from the Bosnia consulate in Jakarta. Adam’s Travel is organizing a pilgrimage in September. Reserve early because it takes a month to get the visas. The agency will apply for the group.

Those interested can call 5211651 or text 0918-9083676.

The late Alice Padlan, owner of Adam’s Travel, visited Medjugorje many times. She never got tired telling me about the beautiful experience she had every time she was there. Her life was transformed by it.

My life was transformed as well. After reading Weible’s book where the seers explained the messages of the Virgin Mary, I felt the need to answer the call to pray the Rosary everyday and offer sacrifices for the conversion of sinners.

Hermandad

Devotees of Our Lady of the Pillar organized themselves many years ago into La Hermandad Zamboagueña (LHZ), giving scholarships to poor but deserving students. To date, there are 27 scholars attending such schools as Mindanao State University and School of Fisheries and Polytechnic College (a trade school). Scholars include Muslims, according to Lollie Mara, sister of the late Manny Pichel and mother of actor Tata Mara.

Elts Silos Mendez is chair of the scholarship committee with Dr. Nenie Uro-Balcos as co-chair. Lollie, Katsi Araneta and Nitz Uro-Gonzales are members.

I meet this group every 12th of October when they hold Mass at the Aristocrat in Malate to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Pillar. Faithfully attending are Ditos Sebastian, past LHZ president; Augusto Africa, founder of La Communidad Zamboanga; and Paulino Pe, president of Ateneo de Zamboanga Metro Manila Association; and Emma Carag.

For nine days, they hold Novena Masses at Malate Church to honor Our Lady of the Pillar, patroness of Zamboanga.

OUR LADY of Medjugorje in front of St. James Church in Medjugorje

Museum

Fr. Vic Robles announced that a permanent museum for Pope John Paul II would open on April 2 at the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Marilao, Bulacan. April 2 is the first anniversary of the Pope’s entry into eternal life.

I kept a text message sent to me on that day by Monina Allarey Mercado: “Mama Mary has fetched her/our Pope home. Hear the Angels sing.”

‘Sales-talked’ by traveling salesman

EMILY’S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I met this guy in March 2005 in my province in the Visayas. We were introduced by my ex-boyfriend.

I think there was some attraction because he immediately gave me his cell number and started sending me text messages. He even called me everyday.

Then, one day, we decided to meet in a private place at the far end of town. Needless to say, things happened unexpectedly. He is a salesman from another province. Since that time, we’d meet once a month.

At first I found that arrangement okay. I knew how busy he was traveling all over the province. But after a while, things changed. His text messages became less frequent.

When I called him, he always said he missed me and then nothing. I still send him text messages constantly and try to call him now and then but he does not answer my calls anymore.

What should I do? Do I have to wait? I love him and it’s hard for me to let go. I pray to God to enlighten me. Did he really love me or just used me to gratify his needs?

GING

In how many languages do you want me to tell you he didn’t love you? He got you, body and soul, on your first outing. What more would he want from you? And how easy was that for him?

He had no investment on you whatsoever. He didn’t go through the grinder to get you at all. Well, not really—if you count the cost of text messages and possibly the few phone calls he made to seal his momentary commitment to you. It hurts, but this guy was in for the sex, nothing more, nothing less.

You can walk on your knees in all the churches in your town and pray for him to return to you. But I’m sorry to say he has already left the building and has no intention of going back. Why should he when he was never into you? Wasn’t it obvious?

And it’s quite late to reconfigure your relationship into something other than what it was.

You gave in too easily and you made so many unnecessary flimsy excuses for him not to get to know you better. If you wanted him to stay, you should have made him want you really badly.

You should have made it a requisite that he should give you a chance to know what kind of a person he is. Your mutual attraction should have paved the way for a great friendship first—without the encumbrances of easy sex.

But that’s all over now. You blew your chance and the best thing to do is just to forget him.

It won’t be easy for you, having already invested your body in this short-lived relationship. Take many, many loooong hot showers and imagine yourself washing him off your life. Think of him as a bad dream that you can forget when you wake up in the morning. Believe it. One of these days, you will just find that you can’t even remember this nightmare.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program “Kalikasan Vigilante,” 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

A - HUNTING WE WILL GO
THIS EASTER AT THE SHANG!

Little ones, with moms and dads, will surely have a grand time hunting treasure and much more as we celebrate one of the much-awaited holidays of the year.

Easter bunnies have more fun at the Shang!
April 16, 2006, Grand Atrium, 1pm to 5pm

• Treasure Hunt • Food Carts • Unicyclist And Juggling Act • Air Brush Tattoo • Balloon Sculpting • Mascot Appearances • Magic Show with Illusion • Loot Bags • Games • Prizes

HOW TO JOIN:

1. The hunt is open to parent-child teams. Children from ages 2 to 12 can join with their mom or dad as partner.
2. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Only the first 200 teams can participate.
3. Registration forms are available at the Administration office, Level 5 at the Shangri-la Plaza from March 27 to April 10, 2006. Registration fee is P300 per parent-child team.
4. Teams should assemble at 1:00 pm on April 16, 2006 at the Level 2, Grand Atrium.
(No-show team will not be qualified for registration fee refund.)

Shangri-La Plaza

Fruitful summer for children

VACATION CAN BE FUN FOR children without leaving them empty-headed. Here are the summer thrillers being offered by Second Mom in Pasig:

Playgroup A (1.6-2.7 years old) provides social interaction and initial exposure to an educational setup rich in stimulating and varied activities to toddlers entering regular preschool—TTHS, 10 a.m.-12 noon, April 18-May 25

Playgroup B (2.8-3.11 years old) includes creative cooking experience, literacy through storytelling, arts and crafts, science and math discoveries and experiments, and lots of music and movement for preschoolers— MWF, 9:30 a.m.-12 noon, April 17-May 15.

Multi-links to Reading (4-7 years old) introduces children to print media as foundation for future reading tasks, exposing them to letter-sound association, three-letter word decoding, sight-reading of frequently used words, spelling and vocabulary building—MWF, 9 a.m.-12 noon, April 17-May 10

Earth-friendly Arts and Crafts Experience and More (4-9 years old) offers opportunity to be exposed to different art media such as paint, clay, various types of paper, recyclable materials, create treasures out of trash, as well healthful but eye-catching food displays. Also: puppet-making tips and simple but keepsake-worthy mini-books and scrapbooks —TThS, 9 a.m.-12 noon, April 18-May 11

Painting workshops (4 years old and above)—Tuedays, 2-5 p.m. April 4-May 30, for different levels:

Beginners—Drawing and painting still-life objects, portrait and figure with emphasis on light and shades and texture; techniques in handling of pencil and pen, introduction on the application and theories of color using pastel and watercolor; sketching from live models; and outdoor painting of landscape and seascape to develop sensitivity to nature

Advanced I (those who have attended Beginners' Workshop)—Continuation of the study of varied mediums using advanced approaches and techniques; introduction to portrait and figure painting with emphasis on form and volume, development of style through color, line and form

Advanced II (those who have attended the Beginners and Advanced I Workshops)—Theories, principle and techniques in painting still life, landscape, seascape, figure, portrait, abstract and other interesting subjects using oil or acrylic.

Basketball Clinic to be conducted in two age groups at the Valle Verde I basketball court— Group A (4-6 years old and above) MWF, 3-5 p.m., April 17-May 10; and Group B (7 years old and above), TThS, 3-5 p.m., April 18-May 9

Second Mom is at Dorm 1, Philsports Complex (Ultra), Pasig. Call 6359743 or 6352002

Keep the kids busy

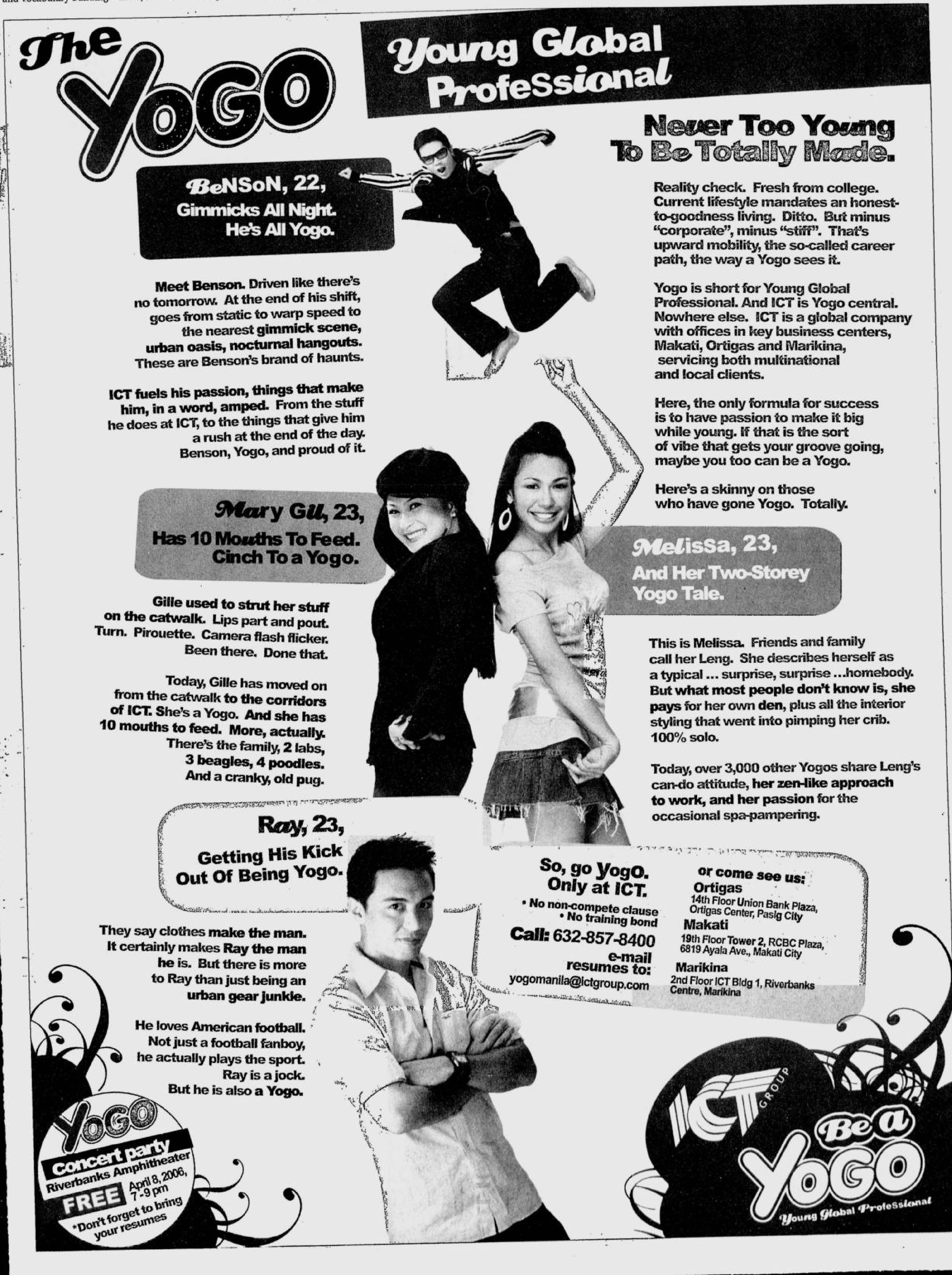
CARE CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING (formerly Creative Edge Preschool) is offering summer workshops for children aged 2-14.

The following programs are aimed at developing different skills and budding talents as well as building friendships and making productive use of the summer vacation.

- Tinker Tykes—the perfect summer camp for kids aged 3-6 years which includes a whole jot of productive, educational and fun activities.
- Toddlers' Playgroup—for toddlers aged 1.8-3 who are already looking for small adventures
- Kitchen Wizards—cooking and baking classes for kids aged 5 and up
- Computer Explorers—tutorial sessions for the future computer techies using a wide variety of software. For ages 4 and up.
- Quest Kids—science experiments and field trips galore to encourage the young scientists aged 5 and up
- Twinkletoes—Hawaiian and Modern Ballroom Dance classes for boys and girls aged 4-12 to develop grace and finesse.
- Act Camp—future artists aged 6 and up dabble in Arts and Crafts using a variety of media.
- Tiny Tunes—piano lessons for musicians aged 6 and up.
- Kids' Biz—basic workshop for enterprising children aged 8-14 to help them set up a worthwhile summer business.
- Summer Tutorials—remedial and advanced academic lessons for students aged 5 and up
- Smart Yayas' School—seminar-workshops for children's caregivers to guide them in appropriate child care.

Classes begin on April 19.

Care Center for Early Learning is at 28 Ricardo St., Carmel I Subd., Project 6, Q.C.. Call 9284847, 4165476, 0916-6171976., or visit us



The YoGO
Young Global Professional

Never Too Young
To Be Totally Made.

BeNSoN, 22,
Gimmicks All Night.
He's All Yogo.

Meet Benson. Driven like there's no tomorrow. At the end of his shift, goes from static to warp speed to the nearest gimmick scene, urban oasis, nocturnal hangouts. These are Benson's brand of haunts.

ICT fuels his passion, things that make him, in a word, amped. From the stuff he does at ICT, to the things that give him a rush at the end of the day. Benson, Yogo, and proud of it.

Reality check. Fresh from college. Current lifestyle mandates an honest-to-goodness living. Ditto. But minus "corporate", minus "stiff". That's upward mobility, the so-called career path, the way a Yogo sees it.

Yogo is short for Young Global Professional. And ICT is Yogo central. Nowhere else. ICT is a global company with offices in key business centers, Makati, Ortigas and Marikina, servicing both multinational and local clients.

Here, the only formula for success is to have passion to make it big while young. If that is the sort of vibe that gets your groove going, maybe you too can be a Yogo.

Here's a skinny on those who have gone Yogo. Totally.

Mary Gil, 23,
Has 10 Mouths To Feed.
Cinch To a Yogo.

Gille used to strut her stuff on the catwalk. Lips part and pout. Turn. Pirouette. Camera flash flicker. Been there. Done that.

Today, Gille has moved on from the catwalk to the corridors of ICT. She's a Yogo. And she has 10 mouths to feed. More, actually. There's the family, 2 labs, 3 beagles, 4 poodles. And a cranky, old pug.

Melissa, 23,
And Her Two-Storey
Yogo Tale.

This is Melissa. Friends and family call her Leng. She describes herself as a typical ... surprise, surprise ...homebody. But what most people don't know is, she pays for her own den, plus all the interior styling that went into pimping her crib. 100% solo.

Today, over 3,000 other Yogos share Leng's can-do attitude, her zen-like approach to work, and her passion for the occasional spa-pampering.

Ray, 23,
Getting His Kick
Out Of Being Yogo.

They say clothes make the man. It certainly makes Ray the man he is. But there is more to Ray than just being an urban gear junkie.

He loves American football. Not just a football fanboy, he actually plays the sport. Ray is a jock. But he is also a Yogo.

So, go YogO.
Only at ICT.
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• No training bond
Call: 632-857-8400
e-mail resumes to:
yogomanila@ictgroup.com

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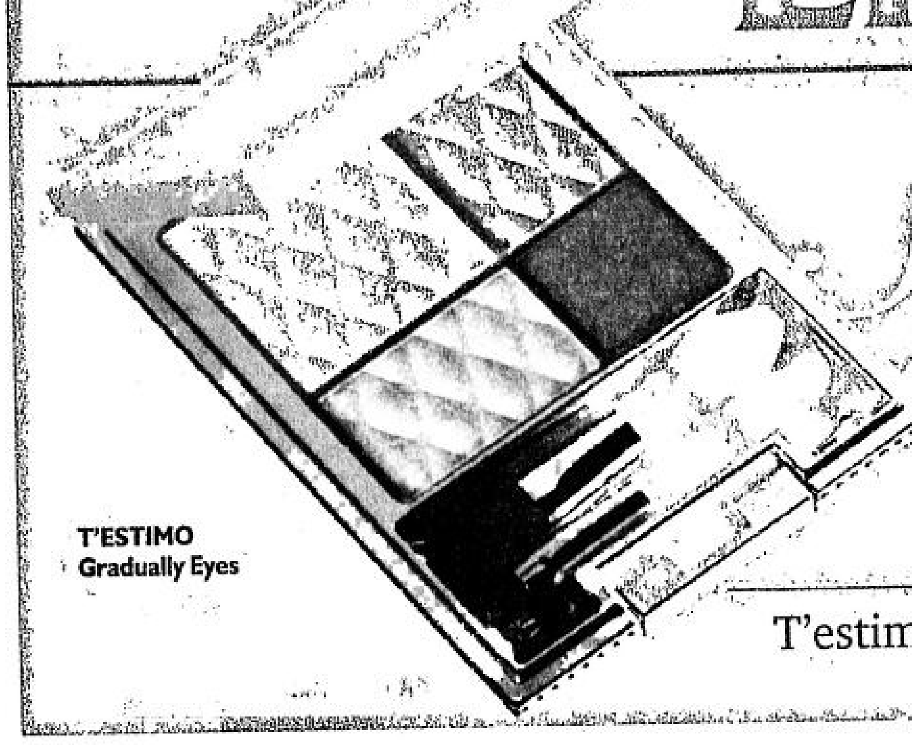
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Makati
19th Floor Tower 2, RCBC Plaza,
6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City
Marikina
2nd Floor ICT Bldg 1, Riverbanks
Centre, Marikina

YoGO Concert party
Riverbanks Amphitheater
FREE April 8, 2006, 7-9 pm
*Don't forget to bring your resumes

ICT GROUP
Be a YoGO
Young Global Professional



T'ESTIMO
Gradually Eyes

Spring fling

T'ESTIMO eyeblow coat

T'ESTIMO Eyebrow Coat

T'estimo's new collection promises to give your face 'a veil of delicate light'

By Pam Pastor

SURE, WE DON'T EXPERIENCE spring in this country. But that shouldn't stop you from enjoying special season offerings from your favorite brands.

T'estimo, Kanebo Cosmetics' point makeup line, promises to give your face a "veil of delicate light" with the products and colors from its 2006 Spring Collection. The collection's theme is "Pleasure Glassy." Update your beauty arsenal with these hot picks and add a little spring to your step this summer.

T'estimo Serumdrape Rouge. Kanebo Cosmetics conducted a survey and discovered that a lot of women in their 20s and 30s describe their natural lip color as dull and unhealthy.

The company provides a remedy with T'estimo Serumdrape Rouge. This conditioning lipstick, which comes in 10 colors, promises to do more than just add color to your smackers. Serumdrape offers to hydrate your lips with extended use.

It contains ingredients that give your lips an extra boost: golden chamomile, which is rich in vitamin P and reportedly improves the blood flow in lips; agua glucoside with its hydrating powers; and aurora drape, pearl which gives off lustrous shimmer and makes your lips glisten. Serumdrape Rouge's smooth melting texture also makes for easy blending.

T'estimo Gradually Eyes. This eyeshadow palette in five variations offers lustrous and translucent colors. Sequentially applying the four shades in every palette creates dazzling and expressive eyes. Each palette contains one highlight color, one medium color for the upper eyelids, one accent color and one medium light color for the lower eyelids. This product contains a smooth radiant and moisture-rich powder that glides on smoothly.

T'estimo Mix Change Powder. This powder's combination of color and texture provides gloss and translucence and blends into your skin to give your face a veil of radiance. The product's spherical particles allow smooth application with a soft touch. Resistant to perspiration and sebum, its effects are long-lasting and look freshly applied for hours.

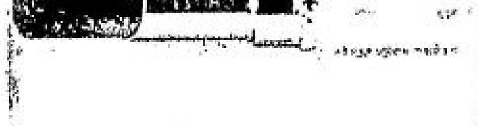
The powder, which is available in two colors, comes with a 100-percent horse hair brush with an angled cut for easier use.

T'estimo Eyebrow Coat. Keep your stubborn eyebrows in place with a single stroke of T'estimo's Eyebrow Coat. It doesn't just align your brows. One stroke is enough to coat them with a transparent film, sustaining a beautiful finish and preventing eyebrow makeup from fading. The Eyebrow Coat is not sticky; it dries easily and resists sweat, sebum and water.

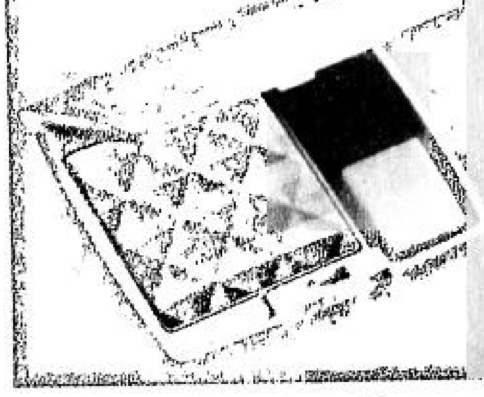
Other products in T'estimo's Spring Collection 2006 include T'estimo Truememory Rouge, a lipstick named after its long-lasting color ("as if your lips have stored the color in memory," it comes in three colors); T'estimo Glitter Fluid Rouge, a liquid rouge that delicately sparkles and covers your lips with gloss (available in three colors); T'estimo Color Eyes, eye makeup that comes in four pretty spring colors); and T'estimo Color Cheeks, which creates the effect of delicately flushed cheeks.

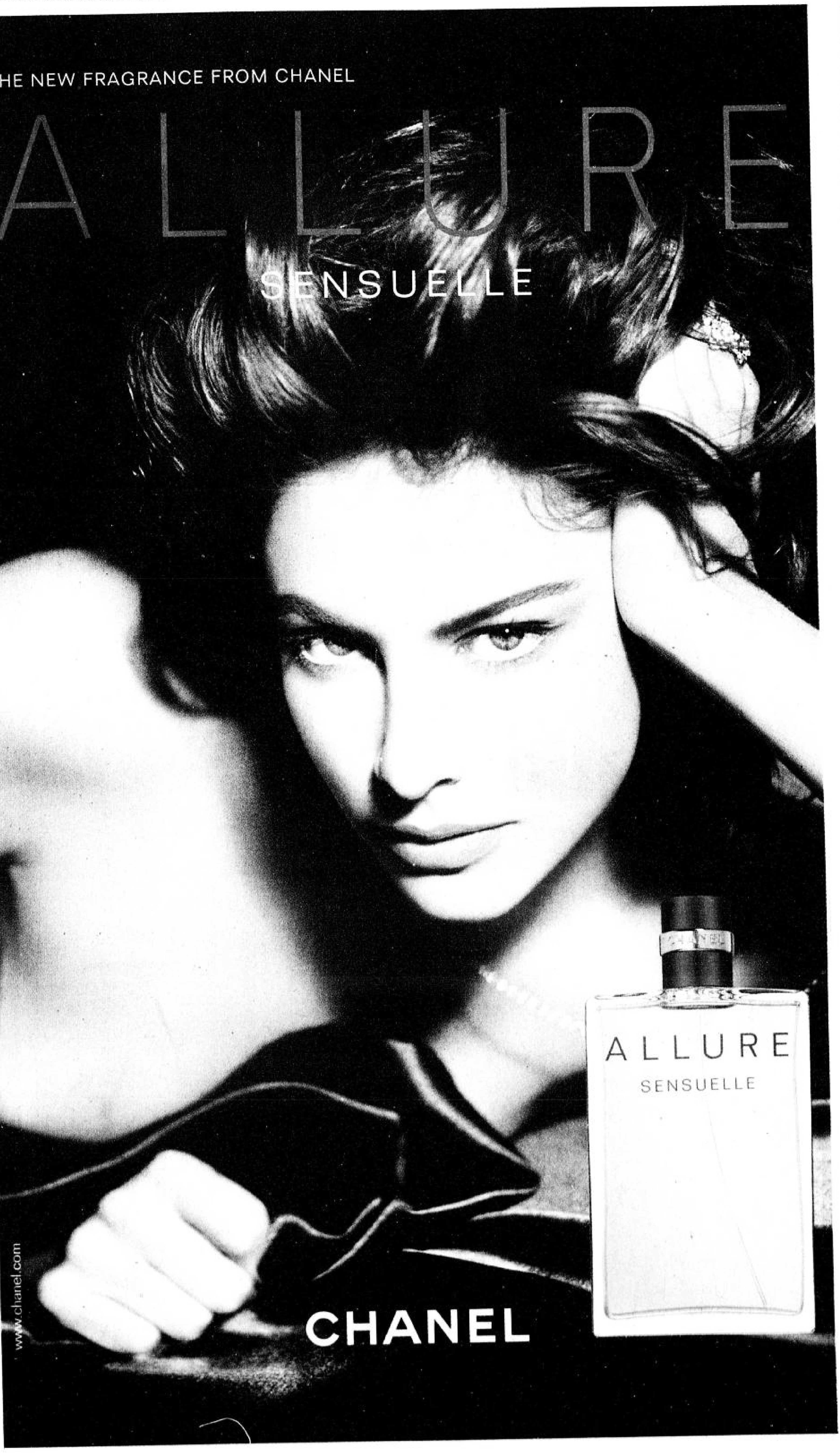
T'estimo's Spring Collection 2006 is available at Rustans Essenses.

T'ESTIMO Serumdrape Rouge



T'ESTIMO Mix Change Powder





MURAD Firm and Tone Dietary Supplement Pack

New approach to cellulite

Murad says cellulite is caused by dehydration, not fat

By Irene C. Perez

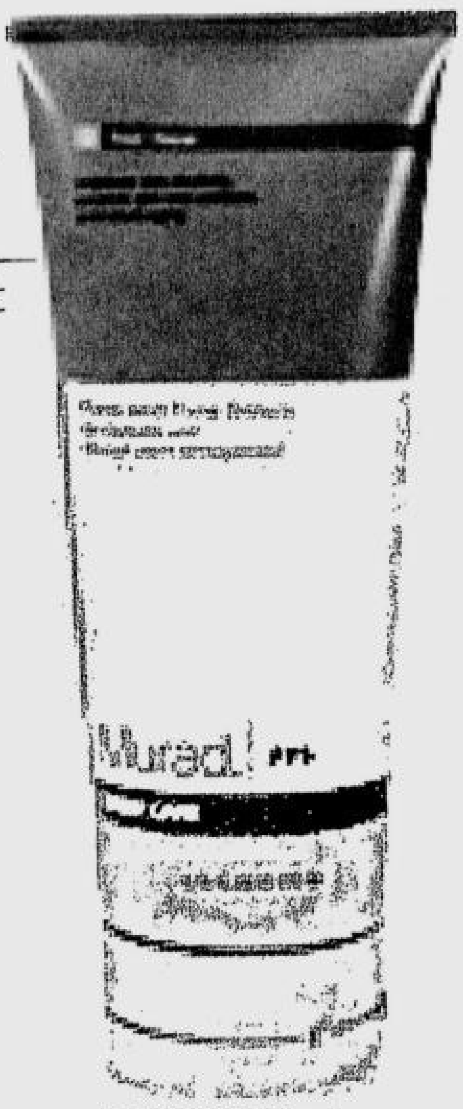
SUMMER'S THE PERFECT excuse to release your inner beach bum. Go maillot or don a two-piece bikini. You can sport "the-skimpier-the-better" attitude but check your thighs first. Even if you are Sarah Jessica Parker-skinny, you may have cellulite.

Even Paris Hilton has an online photo (www.icircle.com) with a caption that says "Isn't it great to know that even rich, 24-year-olds aren't immune to a bit of dimpling?"

Cellulite or orange-peel skin is, yes, fat. Many think it is caused by weight gain or lack of exercise. Pharmacist and dermatologist Dr. Howard Murad thinks otherwise.

His study on cellulite says it is primarily caused by dehydrated, damaged skin and not too much fat.

"We need to focus on repairing the skin, not on burning fat. By simply getting key hydrating, cell-fortifying nutrients to our skin, we can rebuild, rehydrate and revitalize our skin, forcing stubborn fat cells back invisibly below the surface—and keeping them there," says Murad.



BESTSELLER. Murad Firm and Tone Serum

You don't get those unsightly rippling just because you've been slacking off (although exercise helps) or because of last night's *crispy pata*. Murad says cellulite is not a "fat" problem but a "dermal" and "cellular" problem.

Repair, don't burn

Cellulite, says Murad, is primarily caused by water damage and the weakening of skin cells and connective tissues due to environmental damage, aging and hormones.

Even the slim and svelte get cellulite and stretch marks because, although they have little fat in their bodies, their skin may be dehydrated to the point that buoyant fat cells below the skin push into the dermis, then to the middle layer, and show through the surface as cellulite.

Simply put, Murad believes it is best to focus on repairing the skin and not slave away in the gym. He has designed an intensive program (because there can be no effective one magic product) to ward off those puffy, uneven, fatty skin.

The Murad Cellulite Solution Program focuses on "nutrition and education." If it is followed religiously, one could be cellulite-free in just eight weeks (or you get your money back, as promised in Murad's website www.murad.com).

Slim from within

The Firm and Tone Dietary Supplement Pack contains sets of capsules in various colors. One is marked "Day" (eight capsules) which you have to take in with meals in the morning, and the other, "Night" (six capsules), for the evening.

These supplements firm and strengthen your skin from the inside. The patented formula could make your skin firmer by up to 78 percent and reduce stretch marks by up to 47 percent in eight weeks.

The pack is composed of the Multivitamin and Antioxidant Dietary Supplements for healthy skin function and circulation; Essential Fatty Acids for hydration; Cell Energizer Dietary Supplements to fix skin-cell damage and promote cellular energy production; Connective Tissue Dietary Supplements to strengthen blood cells, promote collagen and elastin production and improve skin elasticity and firmness.

Spot treatment

For those jiggly hips, thighs and arms, there's the Firm and Tone Serum, a breakthrough serum with encapsulated liposomes to reduce cellulite and stretch marks from the surface.

Show off your bums after using this bestseller twice daily and improve skin appearance by up to 80 percent and reduce cellulite by up to 69 percent in eight weeks.

Key ingredients for the serum are Cayenne Pepper to hasten circulation; Horse Nut Tree Extract and Tiger's Herb to firm up the skin; Cat's Claw, an extract from the Amazonian Palm forest, to smoothen skin.

Outwit cellulite

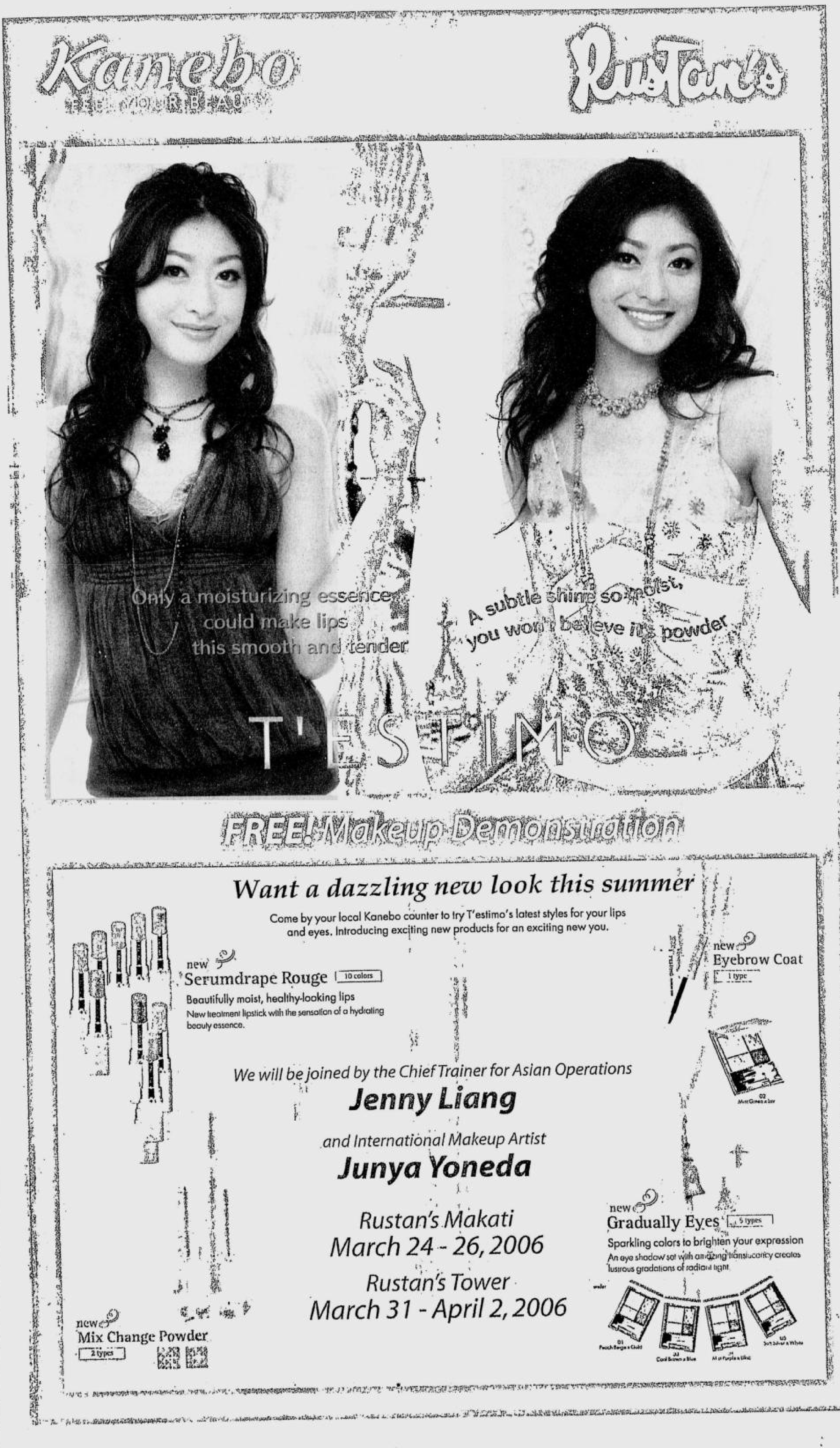
The last part of the program is reading Dr. Murad's book "The Cellulite Solution: A Doctor's Program for Losing Lumps, Bumps, Dimples and Stretch Marks."

The book pretty much teaches you how to stop cellulite from forming, and how to keep it off for good.

There's the three-pronged preventive approach for women of any age, no matter how bad their cellulite is. It further explains, "Why cellulite is a skin problem, not a fat problem." It also enumerates "Cellulite and stretch marks: causes and effects," "7 Cellulite Stoppers" and "9 ways to repair cellulite." You'll also learn "How the Water Principle can reduce cellulite" in this book.

You don't have to resort to drastic cosmetic procedures to have evenly toned skin. Coupled with the right diet and exercise, these products aim to get rid of those fatty, lumpy skin so that you can confidently sashay on the beach in that li'l bikini this summer.

Murad products are available at Rustan's Essenses.



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A subtle shine so moist, you won't believe it's powder
T'ESTIMO
FREE! Makeup Demonstration

Want a dazzling new look this summer

Come by your local Kanebo counter to try T'estimo's latest styles for your lips and eyes. Introducing exciting new products for an exciting new you.

new
Serumdrape Rouge 10 colors
Beautifully moist, healthy-looking lips
New treatment lipstick with the sensation of a hydrating beauty essence.

new
Eyebrow Coat
1 type

We will be joined by the Chief Trainer for Asian Operations
Jenny Liang
and International Makeup Artist
Junya Yoneda

Rustan's Makati
March 24 - 26, 2006
Rustan's Tower
March 31 - April 2, 2006

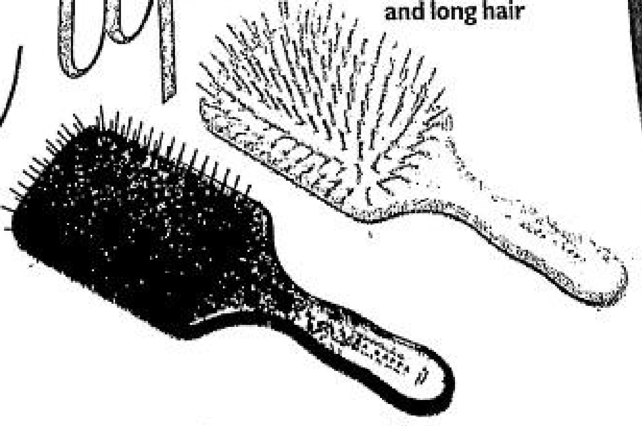
new
Gradually Eyes 5 types
Sparkling colors to brighten your expression
An eye shadow set with amazing translucency creates lustrous gradations of radiant light

new
Mix Change Powder
2 types

Acca Kappa comes up with ergonomically-correct hair tools

Brushing up on comb technology

BRUSH Control Plus characterized by the rubber foam grip



PNEUMATIC brushes with heat-resistant pins (left) and wood bristles, recommended for medium and long hair

ROUND-TIP plastic combs in various sizes

Text by Fran Katigbak
Photos by Betoy Johnson

IF GROOMING YOUR HAIR has become just another trivial daily routine, then perhaps it's time to rethink the tools for fixing your crowning glory.

Acca Kappa, Italian manufacturer of personal care items and accessories for men and women, has an extensive range of hairbrushes and combs to suit every hair type and style.

The brand offers styling brushes with ergonomically designed handles; pneumatic brushes recommended for medium and long hair; porcupine brushes with bi-level tufts which help increase hair volume; and duo force brushes used to disentangle hair.

Those who frequently blow-dry can choose from any of the Italian brand's regular round, high-density, or thermic brushes.

Acca Kappa's *pettini* (Italian for combs) line has a wide selection of shapes and sizes, all of which have teeth with rounded tips so as not to hurt the scalp or damage the hair.

The selection of top-quality hairbrush bristles and their mixtures are well-studied so as to ensure there is no damage to the hair.

Bristles are made of pure or a mixture of wildboar and heat-resistant nylon pins. Pneumatic brushes have bristles in wood and gold- or chrome-plated variations.

Wood, usually kotibé, is Acca Kappa's signature material, although hairbrushes and *pettini* are also available in polished black or white plastic.

While the brand puts emphasis on quality and simplicity, it doesn't fail to deliver luxury as well.

In the beauty brushes and combs series, designs come in tortuga and ivory finish. And if metallics symbolize luxury, then the brand's gold- and chrome-plated hair-grooming tools certainly hit the mark.

Recent additions to the Acca Kappa collection are Brush Control Plus, characterized by the rubber foam grip on the brush handle, and the sanitized brushes line, made with built-in antimicrobial protection.

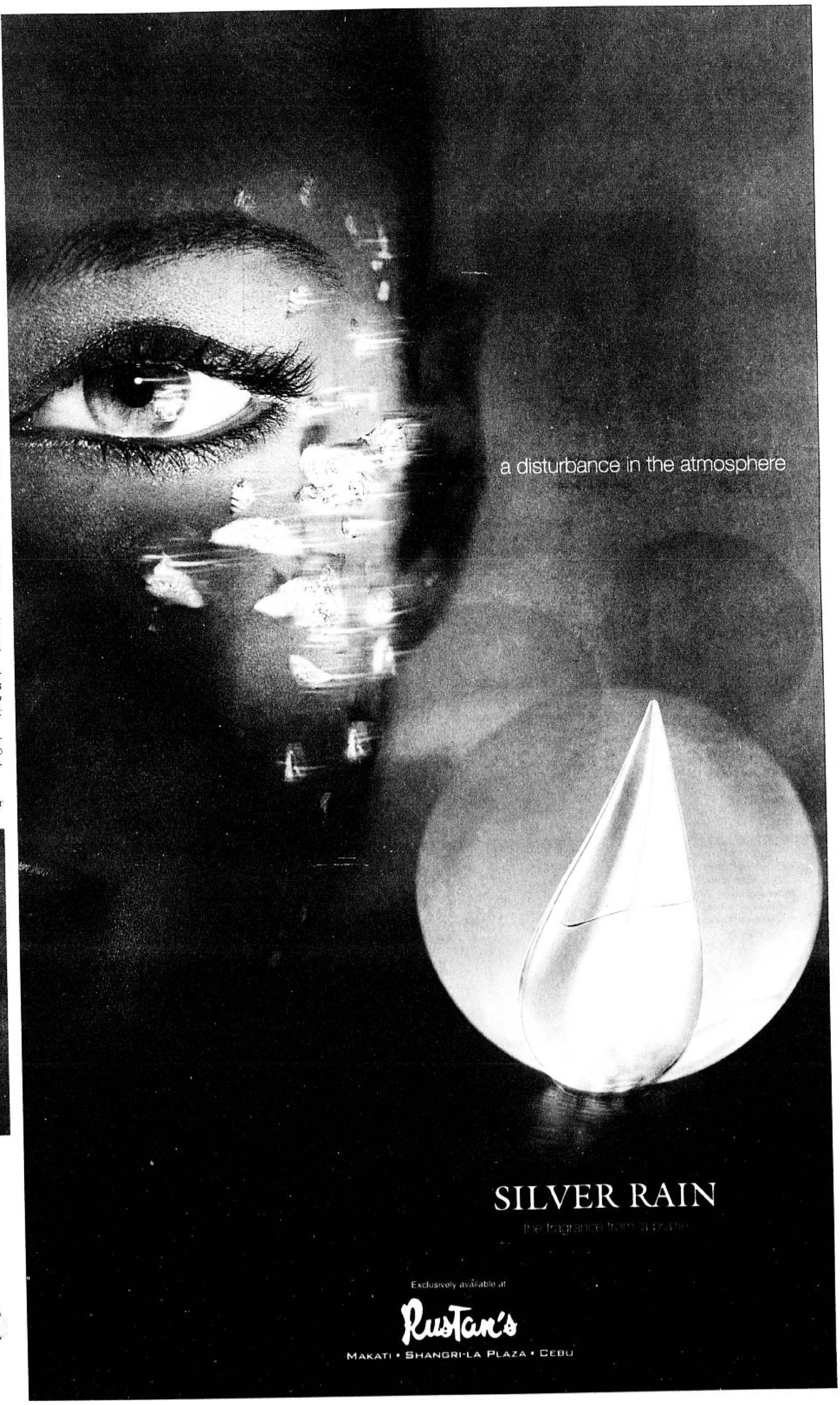
Well-known for the functional and aesthetic qualities of its products, Acca Kappa creates these hair grooming tools based on laboratory research and expert advice of famous hair stylists from all over the world.

Each hairbrush is, indeed, a precious instrument—technically advanced, yet able to convert a simple grooming routine into an indispensable pleasure.

Acca Kappa combs and brushes are available at Rustan's Essenses.

GROOMING tools with chrome- and gold-plated bristles

WOODEN brushes, trademark items in the Acca Kappa collection



a disturbance in the atmosphere

SILVER RAIN

the fragrance from la prairie

Exclusively available at

Rustan's

MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA • CEBU

USE shades that mimic your natural lip color for your best summer puck.

WARM up your cheeks with pinks and peaches tinged with golden or bronzy highlights to mimic a baked-in-Bora glow. It looks more natural than full-on bronzer.

MAKEUP BY ANNA ROSE MACARAEG, RUSTAN'S ESSENSES

Sultry summer looks

Scorching, sexy makeovers are possible with Rustan's Essenses

BEFORE: Our model Celline ready for Essenses' magic touch.

Text by Lora Gahol
Photos by Romy Homillada

SUMMER IS EASILY THE sexiest season of the year: the scorching sun inspires just-as-sizzling looks. But what makes a summer face truly sexy is the effortless, I-just-rolled-out-of-bed-and-looked-gorgeous vibe behind the bronzed cheeks and glossed lips.

And to obtain the most covetable looks for the season of the sun, every girl needs to stock up on cosmetics that do the job with the least amount of fuss.

You're in store for a sultry summer at Rustan's Essenses, where all your makeup essentials can be found on practically every counter!

We spotted fresh graduate Celline Salapantan, 21, scouring the shelves for makeup treasures. As a treat, not only did we give her a guide to the best products—we gave her a makeover that would surely start her summer right. Take your cue from this beauty and go from bare-faced babe to beach-ready bombshell with the right products.

Face: Laura Mercier took good care of Celline's already flawless face by giving it a barely-there base for her makeup. Foundation is tricky in the summer; the heat and humidity can turn a makeup dream into a disaster, so the right formulation is an indispensable consideration in choosing your product. Makeup expert Anna Rose first prepped Celline's skin with Laura Mercier's Primer to moisturize and fill in pores for the smoothest results. For a feather-light effect, she mixed Laura Mercier Tinted Moisturizer with the Liquid Foundation, which thins the consistency of the liquid base to avoid caking yet provides ample coverage. Under-eye circles magically disappeared with a touch of Secret Camouflage concealer. For pure base perfection, a light dusting of Laura Mercier Loose Powder was applied with a big brush.

Summer vision

Eyes: We entrusted Celline's peepers to the beautiful selection from Nars cosmetics, with eye products ranging from clean neutrals to the most vivid hues. Anna Rose started everything off with Nars Eye Brightener as an eyeshadow base—this ingenious product luminizes lids even before eye color is applied. To brighten the entire upper lid, Anna Rose brushed on eyeshadow in neutral Java. Seeking inspiration from the glamorously nude Summer Collection, Anna Rose used Star Sailor shadow duo to highlight Celline's eyes, using shimmery gold from lash lines to creases and blending in antique bronze to create depth. With a swipe of liquid eyeliner and some mascara on curled lashes, Celline was ready to mesmerize—without even batting an eyelash.

Cheeks: Because the summer heat tends to make makeup slide off or "melt," products that are light yet have staying power are definite winners. Paula Dorf's cheek color selection was perfect for a sun-kissed flush, with the mix of cream and powder formulations under the line. Anna Rose chose Cheek Color Cream in tawny Disco, a plum shade with a shot of gold, to complement Celline's natural tan. To seal the flush and add an unexpected pop of color, she layered it with Cheek Color in Tootsie, a peach-orange powder.

Lips: Celline happily puckered up to Sugar Baby lip products, a yummy range from Australia that boasts of the girliest shades for an Audrey Hepburn-meets-Lolita allure—colors and formulations that go from coy co-ed to glamour puss with one pout. Anna Rose chose a subtle yet nevertheless striking look for Celline's lips, beginning with Lip Liner in In The Nude to outline and lightly fill in her kisser. For sheer color and shine, she applied a layer of Lip Lacquer in Daisy, an iridescent clear gloss that gives lips extra dimension. For quick touch-ups, Anna Rose suggests using Sugar Baby's lipstick in Pansie, an amazing nude with just the right amount of shine-perfect for both day and evening.

All products available at Rustan's Essenses, Makati, and Rustan's Tower.

Rustan's Essenses is on sale! Rush to the nearest store and avail of discounts until March 31.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com

AFTER: Celline sizzles in her new look, courtesy of Rustan's Essenses.

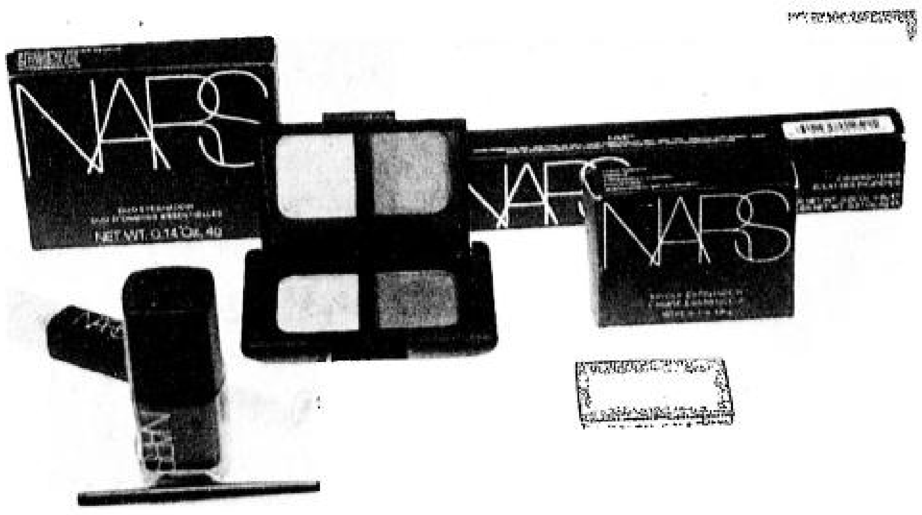
paula dorf
paula dorf

CHEEK Color Cream and Cheek Color from Paula Dorf

ACHIEVE a flawless face with Laura Mercier: Makeup Primer, Tinted Moisturizer, Liquid Foundation, Concealer, Loose Powder

laura mercier
laura mercier
laura mercier

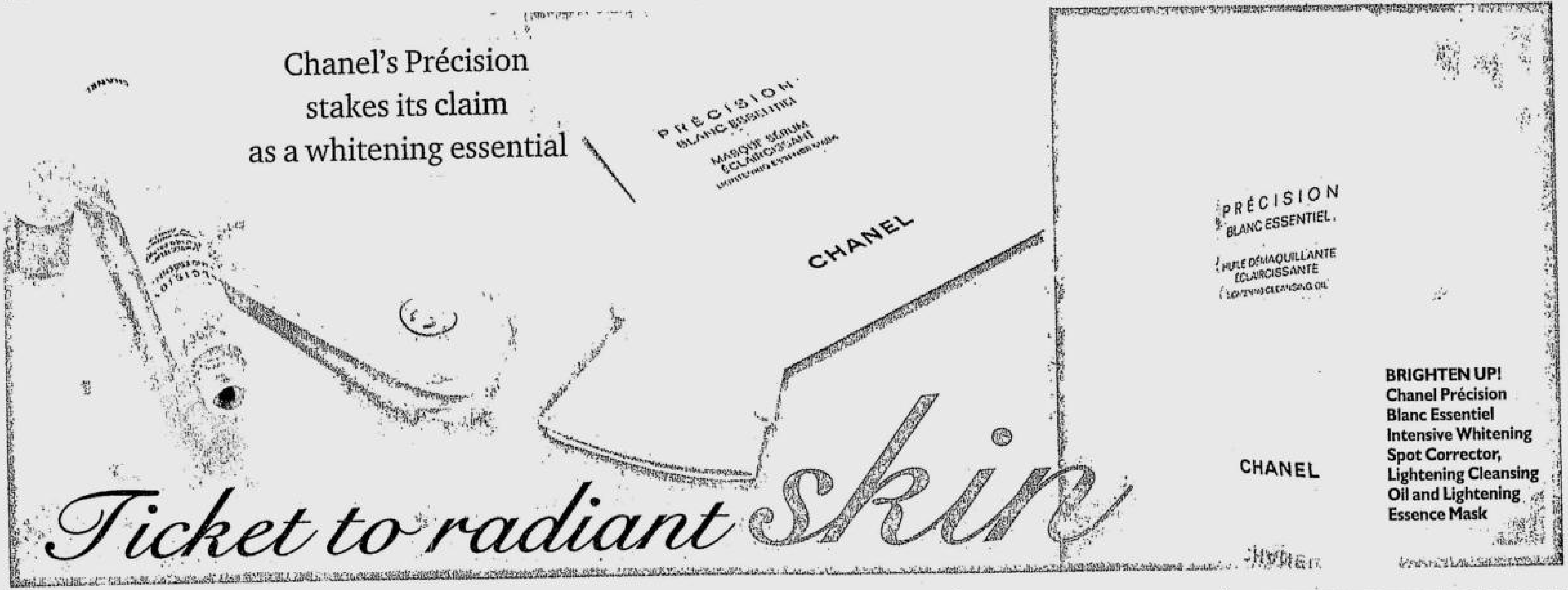
LIP Lacquer, Lipstick and Lip Liner from Sugar Baby



EYESHADOW Duo, Eye Brightener, Liquid Eyeliner and Single Eyeshadow from Nars

Ticket to radiant skin

Chanel's Précision stakes its claim as a whitening essential


PRÉCISION
BLANC ESSENTIEL
MASQUE SÉRUM ÉCLAIRCISSANT
CHANEL
PRÉCISION
BLANC ESSENTIEL
HUILE DÉMAQUILLANTE ÉCLAIRCISSANTE
CHANEL

BRIGHTEN UP! Chanel Précision Blanc Essentiel Intensive Whitening Spot Corrector, Lightening Cleansing Oil and Lightening Essence Mask

By Irene C. Perez

SMOOTH, FAIR, WHITE SKIN has been an obsession among women in Asia. Over the years, there has a been an Asian "skin-whitening revolution," and you don't need a formal study to back it up; just look at cosmetics shelves and for sure, you would see rows and rows of products promising radiant, smoother, clearer skin.

Not to be left behind in the skin-whitening trend is fashion, fragrance and now beauty giant Chanel. The house recently launched its Précision Blanc Essentiel skincare line for morning and evening use.

Of course, women don't want geisha-white faces, they want even, translucent skin with a pinkish tinge. Blanc Essentiel promises that by putting dark spots into "deep sleep."

When the melanocytes in your skin go on hyperdrive, your skin darkens. Chanel's intensive research formulated the Endormeline Complex, which stops the darkening process by taming the melanocytes, thus, bringing out luminous skin.

Key ingredients for this line include narcissus bulb extract, liquorice extract and a Vitamin C derivative from the Endormeline Complex. All are sourced from nature, making the products hypoallergenic and non-comedogenic (so the formula won't clog pores for those prone to breakouts).

Cleanse

You could start off by cleaning your face with the Lightening Cleansing Oil, which is rich in brightening liquorice and anti-pollution nebeday extracts. This makeup remover is great for the face and eyes, and effectively removes stubborn eye makeup, even mascara.

Those with oily skin can use it, too. Pour a small amount of oil, lather and massage "dry" into the face and neck (do not dilute!). When rinsed, the oil leaves a film of very fine lotion, making your skin instantly lighter and softer, but never oily.

For a more intensive cleansing, follow this with a lathering of the Lightening Foaming Cleanser.

Clarify

Want a quick skin fix? Put on the Lightening Essence Mask. This once-a-week brightening sheet brings instant dazzle to dull skin. For maximum results, use it for six consecutive weeks.

Among the Blanc Essentiel line, the Lightening Essence Mask has highest concentration of the Endormeline Complex. It comes in a box of six sachets, and the mask of 100-percent viscose material is ergonomically designed to "hug" the face and neck without bulging.

The flexible mask is generously soaked in a gel serum. It evens out your skin tone and makes your complexion translucent, but not pasty. Continuous use of this mask leaves your skin plumped up, moisturized and soothed.

To use, apply mask on face and neck, then press lightly for a perfect hold. Relax for 10-15 minutes and remove the mask. Gently pat in excess serum with fingertips. You can sleep with the serum on and wake up with a dazzling, clarified skin.

Correct

The rest of your skin may be fair, but there are really dark areas stubborn to most whitening products—pimple marks, scars, sun spots, age spots.

Try the Intensive Whitening Spot Corrector on these areas. This roller applicator pen targets these teeny-weeny spots with extreme precision.

Another problem area is the skin under the eyes. This pen corrector with ultra-concentrated Endormeline Complex combats patches of hyperpigmentation around the eyes, on top of the cheekbones, neck and décolleté, even those brown spots at the back of the hands.

It's alcohol- and fragrance-free and comes in a transparent gel that vanishes into the skin. Since it comes in a roller pen, application is quick and you could easily stash it in your *kikay* kit.

Other products in the Blanc Essentiel line include, for morning use, the Whitening Softening Lotion, Whitening Essence, Whitening Day Emulsion and UV Essentiel SPF 45. For nighttime, there are the Lightening Gel Makeup Remover and Whitening Night Cream.

And oh, just like any other skin-lightening range, use these products with the sunblock most suitable to your skin.

Chanel Précision Blanc Essentiel products are available at Rustans Essenses.

A true story.

"L'Occitane uses A.O.C. lavender essential oil in its Lavender Harvest range to ensure the unique scent and top quality of the products. This range offers relaxing and purifying products for the face, body and home"

Olivier Baussan. Founder of L'Occitane

Après Shampooing Démêlant
à l'huile essentielle lavande A.O.C.
Detangling Conditioner
lavender essential oil
L'OCCITANE
8.4 fl.oz.
Moisturizing Hand Lotion
L'OCCITANE EN PROVENCE
8.4 Fl.oz.
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A portion of sales from Essenses will benefit women's causes through the essenses Foundation

Light at the end of the skincare tunnel

CLARINS
Crème Solaire Ultra Protection
Spécial Peaux Réactives au Soleil
30
Sun Care Cream Ultra Protection
For Sun-Sensitive Skin
Crème Solaire Anti-Rides Ultra Protection
Sun Wrinkle Control Cream Ultra Protection

CLARINS' new-improved Smart Sun Protection products for the face, eyes and body RYAN LIM

By Allison W. Lopez

"I DON'T USE SUNSCREEN. I'M always at the office anyway."

It's a common mistake many women make, thinking they're safe from the sun's rays just because they have a roof over their heads. Unfortunately, the shield isn't enough—especially since harmful rays still attack the skin even in the confines of air-conditioned cubicles.

Jason Au, Clarins regional trainer for Asia, says rays from computers, fluorescent lamps, and even sunlight penetrating windows may cause harm to the skin. It's not as much as when you're out being "cooked" in the sun, but it still does damage.

"It's like secondhand smoke," says Au. "It's indirect, that's why sometimes we are not aware of it. For example, when ladies touch-up and take out their compacts, the light that gets reflected on the mirror may have an effect on their skin."

Now that it's summer, the skin deserves a more fortified defense. The sun, after all, causes 90 percent of aging.

JASON Au, Clarins regional trainer for Asia

To make sure the sunscreen job gets done well (and not "well-done"), Clarins introduces a new-improved Smart Sun Protection line, with the exclusive Phyto-Sunactyl 2 complex.

Upgraded formula

Au says through the open-formula concept, Clarins can readjust the formula to the latest research findings every three or four years. With Phyto-Sunactyl 2, the upgraded version of Phyto-Sunactyl, Clarins' 2006 sun-care range protects not only the DNA found in the cell's nucleus but also the DNA found in mitochondria, the cell's lungs. This allows the cells to breathe and produce more energy, allowing for a more effective multicellular protection.

Crystallized mineral rocks, specifically titanium, compose Phyto-Sunactyl 2. Notice how mineral rocks on the beach deflect the sun's rays? The idea is the same for Clarins' Smart Sun Protection range, which prevents UVA, UVB, and also IR (infrared) rays from penetrating the skin.

But the products don't just stop at protecting. Five plant extracts—pea, olive, baobab, plane tree and senna—fight against amino acids that diminish collagen and elastin, both essential in keeping the skin young and supple. These extracts also act as antioxidants to promote cell renewal and reverse the aging process.

Clarins provides a more fortified protection to the skin this summer

SPF, or sun protection factor, was invented by the Japanese to see how fast the skin burns. For this product line, SPF 30 is used. But why only SPF 30 when there are higher SPFs as 70?

Au says that according to research, there's actually only a minimal increase in protection (six percentage points), and NOT the actual 40 difference yielded between the two SPFs.

SPF 30 already gives a lot of protection, says Au, but it has to be applied every 45 minutes for maximum effect. This is what he calls "smart tanning."

Products are different for sensitive and normal skin types because they have unique needs. The fair-skinned, for example, fall under the sensitive skin type because they burn more easily and therefore need more attention.

Then there are the specialized ones—for the body, for the face, and the latest innovation, a sun-protecting cream for the eyes.

First in the industry

As an authority in eye contour products, the French brand, according to Au, has come up with a Sun Wrinkle Control eye cream, said to be the first in the industry. This eye cream uses 10 times finer titanium particles that evenly spread and do not form a white film on the skin. The cream is also non-oily and will not run into the eyes. Application is a breeze with the tube's spout tip that allows for just the right amount.

Since under-eyes have the thinnest skin and show the first signs of aging, it is only right that it should be taken good care of. Au adds that even students, who often use computers and strain their eyes, must heed and act quick.

"It's urgent that you protect your skin now even if you're only in your teens. I wish someone told me that when I was young. Young people nowadays are lucky. They have a lot of information," he says.

UV40 is another Clarins product that provides daily sunscreen protection. Au says it was specially made for women in the city who battle a lot of pollution in their environment.

As for the skincare brand, Au has this to say: "We treat our consumers as real women, not as customers. I think this makes a lot of difference."

Now we won't have to worry about committing big skin mistakes anymore.

Clarins' 2006 Smart Sun Protection range is available at Rustan's Essenses.

Fountain of youth in a jar

Fight the signs of aging with Origins' Youthtopia

By Pam Pastor

PEOPLE RESORT TO DRASTIC MEASURES IN their battle against aging skin. Some choose to go under the knife, while others—like Goldie Hawn and Meryl Streep's characters in "Death Becomes Her"—try to find a miraculous, almost supernatural cure. We all know how that turned out.

ORIGINS
opia™
ing lotion
diola
ffermissante
isage au
oz. liq./50 ml e
ORIGINS
Youthtopia™
Skin firming lotion
with Rhodiola
Lotion raffermissante
pour le visage au Rhodiola
1.7 fl. oz /oz. liq./50 ml e

FOR OILY and combination skin. Origins Youthtopia Skin Firming Lotion

Origins Youthtopia offers a simpler and less painful solution to the problem of aging skin: adaptation. While we know that we can't stop the aging process, helping the skin adapt to changes might just be the solution everyone is looking for. After all, poorly adapted skin causes it to age before its time.

Origins found the answer in nature. Its two new products—Youthtopia Skin Firming Cream (a rich and emollient cream for combination and dry skin) and Youthtopia Skin Firming Lotion (a sheer, oil-free lotion for combination and oily skin)—contain Rhodiola, a plant discovery that has been described as "phenomenal."

Rhodiola belongs to the adaptogenic category—natural substances that act on multiple systems in our bodies to increase resistance to stress and boost stamina. It helps the skin by providing a rich reserve of energy and allowing the skin to function at its optimal level while correcting the appearance of aging.

Youthtopia Skin Firming Cream and Youthtopia Skin Firming Lotion are moisturizers that make it possible for the skin to enjoy the previously untapped benefits nature can offer. They help the skin by rallying against stress and restoring its resiliency and balance.

"At Origins, nature is our laboratory and we are proud to bring the power of this extraordinary plant to skincare to revolutionize the fight against aging," says Daria Myers, president of Origins Natural Resources.

According to Richard P. Brown, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and co-author of "The Rhodiola Revolution," Rhodiola rosea is known as "one of those rare substances that increase energy at the very source: our cells. Rhodiola rosea actually boosts energy production. This power surge at the cellular level not only helps us manage stress with greater ease but also protects against disease."

Youthtopia Skin Firming Cream and Youthtopia Skin Firming Lotion maximize the use of Rhodiola and strengthen skin weakened by age and stress while reinforcing the natural moisture barrier. The cream and lotion also help improve the appearance of facial contours and firm skin. Buoyancy and elasticity are also improved, making the skin smoother.

ORIGINS
Youthtopia™
Skin firming cream
with Rhodiola
Crème raffermissante
pour le visage au Rhodiola
net wt./poids net 1.7 oz./ 50 m
ORIGINS
Youthtopia™
Skin firming cream with Rhodiola
Crème raffermissante
pour le visage au Rhodiola
net wt./poids net 1.7 oz./ 50 ml e

FOR DRY and combination skin. Origins Youthtopia Skin Firming Cream

The cream and lotion also contain other important and powerful natural ingredients that complement Rhodiola's abilities—sweet almond extract that provide immediate skin firming; Conjugated Linoleic Acid, derived from safflower and which works to enhance facial contours; Argireline, Soy Peptides and Vitamin C to boost natural collagen production; Menyanthes trifoliate from Buckbean Extract and Siegesbeckia to help the skin maintain natural collagen; Sodium Hyaluronate that provides moisture; and sunflower, barley and cucumber extracts for barrier repair and moisture.

A special aromatic essential oil blend of Geranium and Star Anise give the products an appealingly fresh and floral aroma.

Youthtopia Skin Firming Cream and Youthtopia Skin Firming Lotion are available at Rustan's Essenses.

NURTURE with nature. Origins Youthtopia is rich in Rhodiola.

Caviar on your skin

The coveted sturgeon fish roe is no longer valued solely for its distinct briny flavor but also for its anti-aging properties

LA PRAIRIE Skin Caviar

THE CAVIAR Collection

By Nastasha Isobel B. Verayo

CAVIAR. THE MERE MENTION of the word conjures images of luxury, sensuality, opulence.

Also known in some parts of the globe as "black gold," the coveted sturgeon fish roe is no longer valued solely for its distinct briny flavor but also for its anti-aging properties.

Laboratories La Prairie in Switzerland, equally dedicated to upholding the integrity and improving the lavish quality of its products, combines skin science with ultimate indulgence in its Caviar Collection. The luxury brand famous for its anti-aging skincare line boasts of unprecedented concentration of caviar extract.

Now, if the thought of suffering fish in the name of younger-feeling skin makes you cringe, here's something for your peace of mind: La Prairie uses unfertilized eggs harvested from farmed sturgeon fishes.

A rich source of vitamins (A, D, B1, B2, B6), amino acids, phospholipids and proteins, caviar helps tone, firm and lift skin by intensifying the process within the skin and encouraging cell regeneration. That's skin rejuvenation at the cellular level, and the newest addition to the Swiss brand's skincare line, Skin Caviar Body Emulsion, promises just that.

Also, since caviar is a source of marine DNA, it basically acts as hydrator, instantly moisturizing dull, dry skin.

The lotion is absorbed easily and the outcome noticeable immediately. Not only that, the skin feels satin-soft long after the first application, and the formula is so rich, you need only use it as much as twice a day (mornings and evenings after bathing) to effect graceful aging.

This ocean treasure now not only pleasures the palate but the rest of your body as well.

Skin Caviar Luxe Body Emulsion also contains La Prairie's patented exclusive Cellular Complex, for the skin's optimal functioning and renewal; AHA (alpha hydroxy acids) and BHA (benzohydroxamic acid) Complex, which smoothes and refines skin texture while gently exfoliating the skin; mica particles, naturally occurring minerals with highly reflective quality, normally used to add pearlescent sheen to cosmetics for that subtle glow to your complexion; Brightening Complex with licorice extract, cucumber, apple and green tea, which brightens and clarifies skin tone; illipe butter, shea butter, rice bran oil, grape seed oil and millet seed extract, for maintaining the skin's barrier function and providing intense moisturization without the greasy feel, as well as protecting against the drying effects of the sun; and moringa extract, edelweiss flower, extracts and vitamins A, C and E, which provide superior antioxidant cover against environmental aggression.

Rich collection

The La Prairie Caviar Collection includes:

Skin Caviar, a jar of richness that comes with its own silver spoon. Be warned, though: these tiny pearls are not to be ingested. Instead, a small serving is placed on a piece of gauze and the extract squeezed and smoothed over the skin.

Skin Caviar Intensive Ampoule Treatment, a six-week skin therapy using one part concentrated vitamin C and another part caviar extract, mixed to create a serum formulated to guard skin against free radicals, environmental attack and premature aging. One mixture will last one whole week.

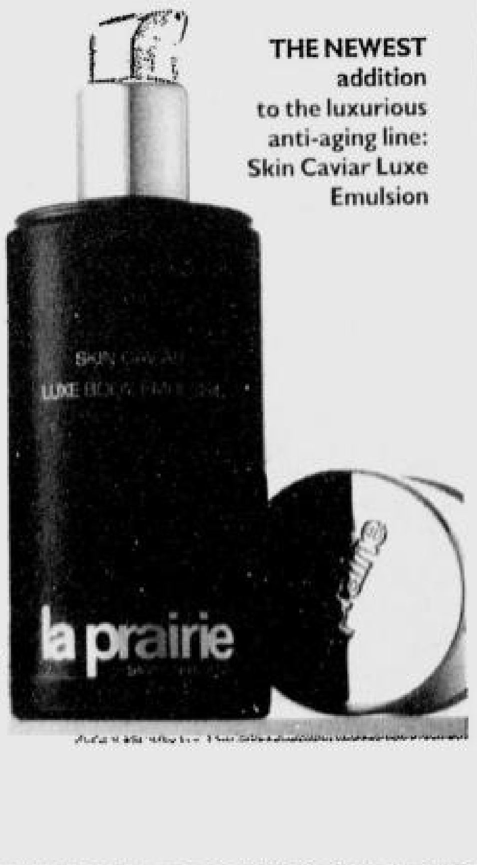
Skin Caviar Luxe Cream transforms the surface of the skin into "satinized luminosity." Another benefit of applying this cream is prolonged and improved makeup wear. Skin elasticity and radiance are likewise enhanced.

Extrait of Skin Caviar Firming Complex, called a "mini facelift" in a bottle, is a highly advanced formula that fills in lines and smoothes skin with just one drop.

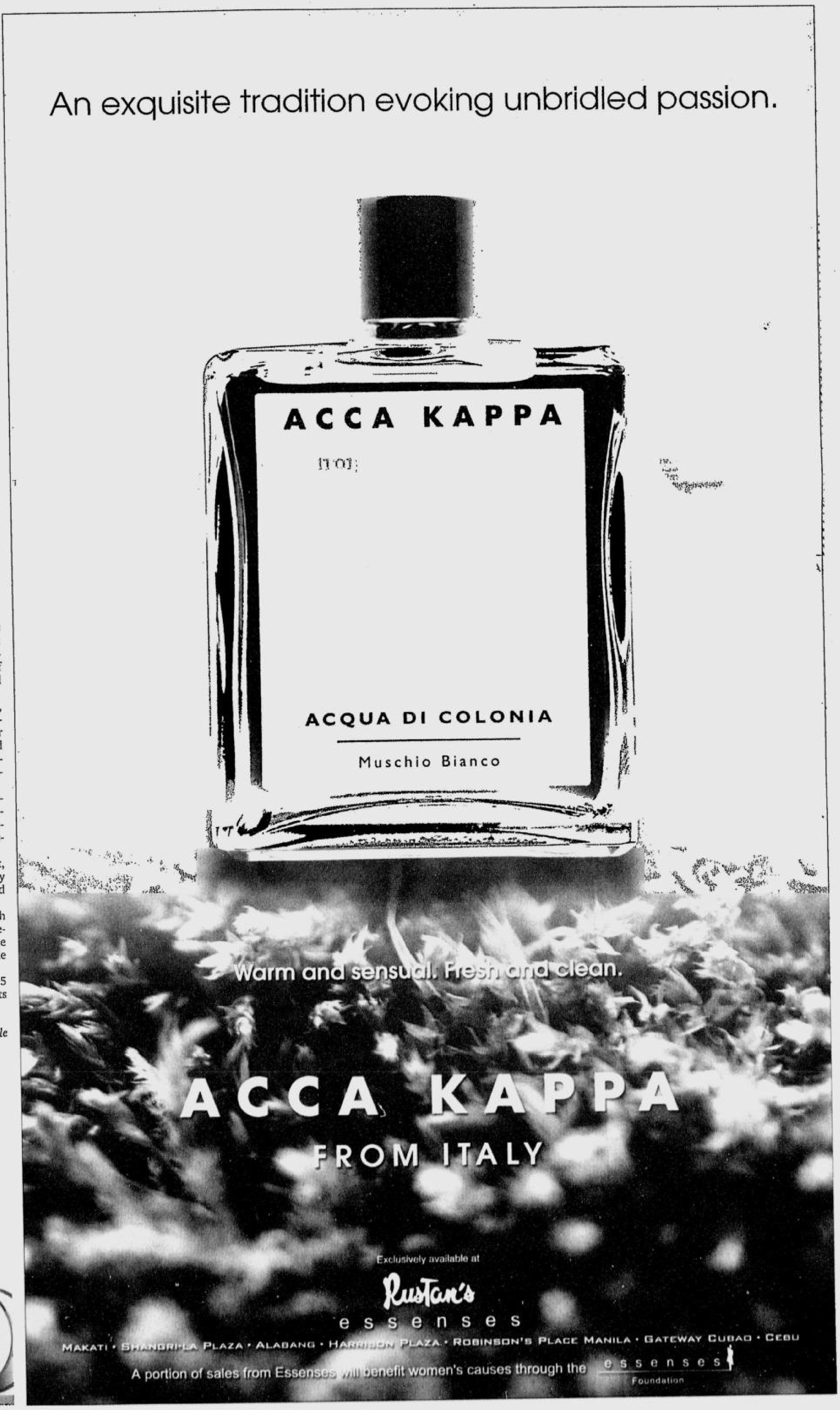
Essence of Skin Caviar Eye Complex with Caviar Extract, a microgel specifically designed to treat the delicate skin around the eye area, reduces fine lines, soothes fragile tissue, firms and makes it more luminous.

Skin Caviar Concealer-Foundation SPF 15 is an age-altering foundation that protects and smoothens the skin.

La Prairie Caviar Collection is available at Rustan's Essenses.



THE NEWEST addition to the luxurious anti-aging line: Skin Caviar Luxe Emulsion


An exquisite tradition evoking unbridled passion.
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Warm and sensual. Fresh and clean.
ACCA KAPPA
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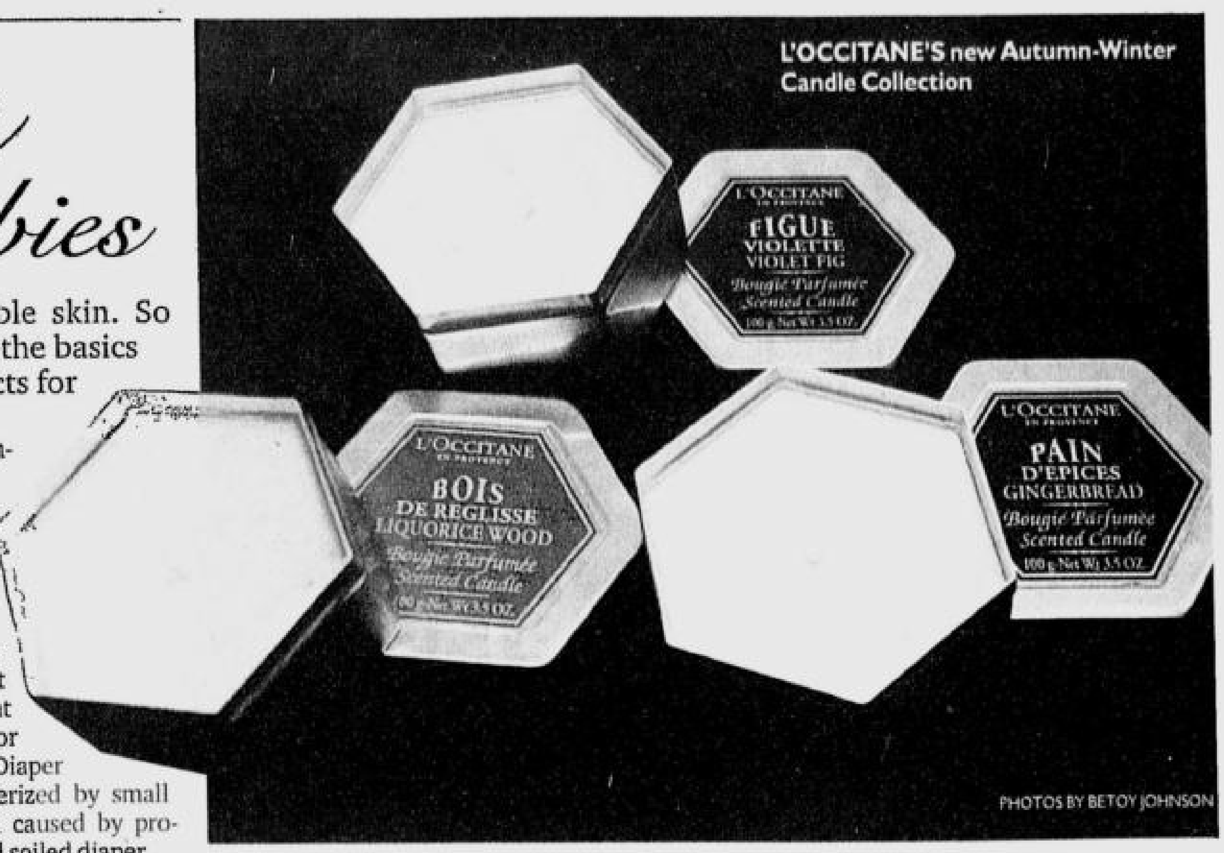
A portion of sales from Essenses will benefit women's causes through the essenses Foundation

Butter treats for moms and babies

By Belle V. Bondoc

MOMS, BE WARNED! THE scorching summer heat may damage your baby's sensitive and vulnerable skin. So it's important to know the basics of and the right products for proper skincare.

THE NEW Mom and Baby Balm

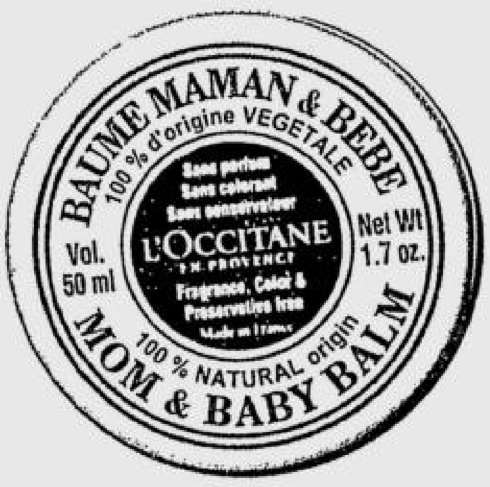

L'OCCITANE'S new Autumn-Winter Candle Collection

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

L'OCCITANE
FIGUE VIOLETTE VIOLET FIG
Bougie Parfumée Scented Candle
100 g Net Wt 3.5 OZ.
L'OCCITANE
BOIS DE REGLISSE LIQUORICE WOOD
Bougie Parfumée Scented Candle
100 g Net Wt 3.5 OZ.
L'OCCITANE
PAIN D'EPICES GINGERBREAD
Bougie Parfumée Scented Candle
100 g Net Wt 3.5 OZ.

According to research, common skin problems among babies occur during the summer months. The most common baby skin problems are prickly heat and diaper rash.

Prickly heat are acne-like pimples on the skin folds that may appear when sweat glands are blocked by saliva or sweat and become inflamed. Diaper rash, meanwhile, is characterized by small red dots on the diaper area caused by prolonged contact with a wet and soiled diaper.



To address these skin problems, L'Occitane, the French brand famous for its plant-based beauty products, has introduced Mom and Baby Balm, its latest product especially formulated for babies and mothers as well.

"The product chiefly promises sufficient protection for baby's delicate skin," says Christine Arriola of Rustan's Cosmetics and Toiletries Division.

Like other L'Occitane items, it has healing properties and was created using the finest ingredients. This 100-percent plant-based product has no preservatives, and it's fragrance-free to avoid allergic reactions.

Its active ingredient, which plays a major role in treating skin irritations, is shea butter.

In West Africa, the shea trees that produce shea butter are considered sacred. Only African women are allowed to harvest the shea fruit, extract and dry the nuts, grind them to make a fine paste and transform them into shea butter. The preparation, strictly reserved for women, is called "Women's Gold."

Shea butter has also become part of these women's beauty rituals, using it on their faces, bodies and hair for nourishment, and on their children's skin for sun protection.

The butter has many benefits. It helps improve hormonal imbalance during pregnancy, which causes various dysfunctions like dehydration and poor blood circulation. It helps nourish cellular tissues and it improves skin's elasticity and durability.

Aside from its shea butter component, the balm is also enriched with oatmeal, calendula extract, grape seed and coconut oil.

It is highly recommended for people with very dry skin and it can also be used for a calming baby massage or for a gentle baby belly rub.

It comes in two sizes, 150 ml and 50 ml.

New fragrances

L'Occitane also takes pride in the success of its home fragrances. It carries an array of scented candles in yummy and earthy colors.

The brand's new collection of candles, the Autumn-Winter Collection, has calming scents of violet fig, liquorice wood, gingerbread, pumpkin chestnut, and caramel.

For this new collection, L'Occitane uses a natural-based wax and a pure cotton wick. The wax is made from plant-based raw materials derived mainly from palm oil and beeswax. It has no petroleum oil derivatives. The candles burn cleanly without producing any smoke or major buildup of carbon on the wick.

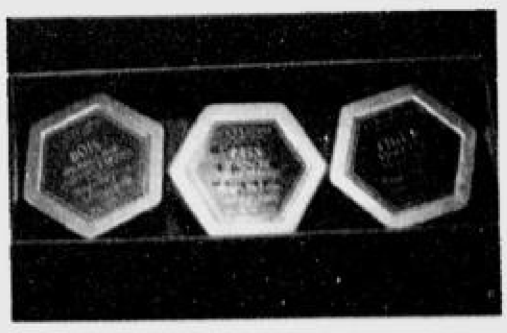
These aromatic candles, according to Arriola, are therapeutic.

Like scented candles, incense is also gaining popularity. They come in different shapes and sizes, wands, matchsticks, coils, colors and scents.

L'Occitane is offering discounts on its home fragrances, among other items, until Easter Sunday. The store is offering up to 30-percent discount if you buy five of any of these items: soaps, incense sticks, tinted shea butter, solid perfumes and essential oils. A 15-percent discount is offered if you buy three of the items mentioned.

There are gift value sets being sold at half the original price. The Rose candles package is now a "buy one, take one" item; scented candles are sold at P395 for two; incense sticks are available for only P695 for two; Almond Shaping Gel for P2,295; and the Green Tea perfume (100 ml) with free Green Tea Mint candle goes for P2,700.

All products are available at Rustan's Essenses.



the Murad
cellulite solution

finally, a cellulite solution that really works!

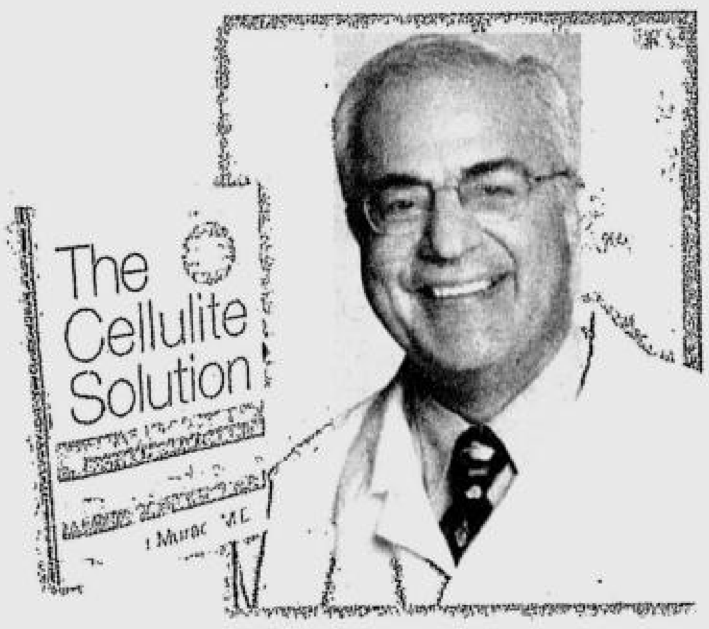
the firm & tone dietary supplement pack

- Encourages the appearance of firmer skin by up to 78% in eight weeks
- Helps to improve the visual texture of stretch marks by up to 47% in eight weeks

the firm & tone serum

Improves the overall appearance of skin up to 94% by:
- Reducing the appearance of cellulite by up to 77%
- Increasing skin firmness and elasticity while masking imperfections

The Firm & Tone Dietary Supplement Pack and the Firm & Tone Serum were developed by world-renowned dermatologist Dr. Howard Murad. They are also part of a complete line of patented, scientifically proven Murad products.



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A portion of sales from Essenses will benefit women's causes through the essenses Foundation

PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK06

MARCH 31 APRIL 9 2006

NBC Tent the Fort
FRI March 31/ 6:30 pm
EsAc SALUTES THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FDAP
[illegible]

SAT April 1
PREMIER COLLECTION A
3:00 pm
rajo laurel
6:30 pm
SONY ERICSSON PRESENTS THE 2006 POWER GENERATION FORECAST and THE NEW GENERATION COLLECTION
[illegible]

SUN April 2
PREMIER COLLECTION B
3:00 pm
alex pigao • lyle ibañez [illegible]
6:30 pm
LUXE WEAR COLLECTION
[illegible]

MON April 3/ 6:30 pm
YOUNG AVANT GARDE COLLECTION featuring WELLA TREND VISION 2006
[illegible]

TUE April 4
PREMIER COLLECTION C
12:00 nn
anthony nocom • avel bacudio
gerry katigbak
PREMIER COLLECTION D
3:00 pm
frederick peralta
6:30 pm
SONY presents THE GRAND ALLURE COLLECTION featuring THE HANDYCAM
[illegible]

Glorietta Activity Center
WED April 5/ 6:00 pm
SONY ERICSSON presents EASY FASHION

Embassy Supper Club
WED April 5/ 9:30 pm
SONY presents FASHIONABLY LOUD PARTY featuring the new WALKMAN

Glorietta Activity Center
THU April 6/ 6:00 pm
CALCARRIE'S presents MODELS! MODELS! MODELS!

Embassy Supper Club
THU April 6/ 9:30 pm
TRIBAL PARTY featuring NEW YORK CLUB DJ ELLIOT DE HOYOS

Glorietta Activity Center
FRI April 7/ 6:00 pm
SONY presents PREMIER COLLECTION captured by CYBER-SHOT
alex pigao • anthony nocom • avel bacudio
frederick peralta • gerry katigbak •
lyle ibañez • rajo laurel • raoul ramirez

SAT April 8/ 6:00 pm
READY TO WEAR COLLECTION SUMMER 2006

SUN April 9/ 6:00 pm
PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK 2006 GRAND FINALE

PROVEN

Runway Productions is always proud to promote local talent, bringing the Filipino closer to be at par with the world. As the producer of Philippine Fashion Week for the past eight years, Runway was able to introduce brands, local and international, new or recognized to Philippine Fashion Week and these brands have benefited from the remarkable market buzz generated by this week long event. The prestigious event has evolved into the certified launch pad for both the big and upcoming names in the fashion, beauty, entertainment, technology, and lifestyle industries.

It's a long list to be sure, but here are of the highlights of Philippine Fashion Week's many achievements.

Sony Ericsson garnered the enviable banner of the most number of units sold, and took the lead in sales of its style savvy imaging handsets after the presentation of the K700i during Philippine Fashion Week featuring the 10 best-known faces in the modeling biz.

Avon dominated the up-to-the-minute trends interpreted for the benefit of make-up artists and encouraged awareness and usage among their various clients When Philippine Fashion Week partnered with the big-name make-up brand..

Wella, the International hair expert presents its Trend Vision at Philippine Fashion Week for 5 years now, boosting quirky, cutting-edge, highly innovative hairstyles. Speedo's Jaipur collection's triangular bikini raked in the sales, although considered then as a bit of a daring item to market to the intrinsically conservative Filipina, after a successful showing at the Philippine Fashion Week.

Adidas gave a whole new spin to collaboration when it launched its brand-designer fusion at Philippine Fashion Week to great acclaim. The fashion-forward mix of the high-low, sporty-glam looks that made Adidas' fusion campaign a winner. This indicated the staunch confidence a leading global brand had on the ingenious talent of the Filipino crop of designers.

Philippine Fashion Week 2005 was picked up by one of the world's leading fashion websites, www.zoomlookbook.com, featuring all the collections showcased during the event. This was the only Asian fashion week included in the roster, placed alongside the recent spring-summer collections in Milan, Paris, London and New York.

At the helm of Runway Productions, brothers Audie and Joey Espino believes through Philippine Fashion Week, the world knows that Philippine fashion is alive, and in through this event the Filipinos are encouraged to unite, move forward, learn to make the most out of the country's resources, and to think global.

LYLE IBANEZ
LITO PEREZ
RICHARD
LIZ CL
SARAH MEITER
MTV VJ / INTERNATIONAL MODEL AND THE K700
THE PERFECT A
PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK
ZOOM LOOK BOOK
BETTER THAN FRONT ROW
COLLECTIONS
SPRING 2006
FALL 2005
SPRING 2005
FALL 2004
MEMBERS
CONTACT
ASIA
Cyber-shot
SONY
Slim is in
Cyber-shot unveils its latest design at the Grand Finale Event of FASHION WEEK05
like no other

PFW brings on cutting edge fashion

Wella presents its trend at PFW shows

The powergeneration set their hands on the P900 last PFW2003

The k700i sold out after PFW04 launched this campaign

Backstage beauty gets some Avon color

PFW05 fuses technology with style

Designers take a bow!

Showcases the latest fashion [illegible]

WHY PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK?

Philippine Fashion Week has grown much bigger as it goes through 10 days on nonstop fashion. The country's best of the best in what's haute and happening comes together for a week. More than a hundred designers put their runway shows on. Even those all the way from the south come to town. The press is ready to get in the sites to view what's new. The hottest models are there. Everybody who lives for fashion will be there for 10 days straight!

Well aside from that, many came up with better reasons to be at Fashion Week....So why Fashion Week?

Rebecca Lopez, Professional Division Manager; Wella Philippines
The Philippine Fashion Week is the only event in the country that puts together anyone and everyone concerned with and can influence the lifestyle of Filipinos

Tippi Ocampo, Designer
I'm supporting Philippine Fashion Week because it is supporting and promoting Philippine design talent as best as it can

Victor Consunji, Photographer
I believe that creativity is worth supporting. Philippine Fashion Week is an outlet for creativity and collaboration. If even just one Filipino talent benefits positively from the event, it would have been worth the effort.

Joel Escober, Designer
That local talent like me, is evident and showcasing designs is my way of proving that Philippine Fashion is worth supporting..

Pancho Escaler, Photographer
I'd like to be part of promoting the Philippine Fashion industry.

Jun Escario, Designer
Philippine Fashion Week is potentially a good venue to show the global competitiveness of the Filipino in fashion design.

Mel Cuevas, Editor-In-Chief,
Metro Magazine
Part of Metro's thrust is to help promote the local fashion industry- Fashion Week is an event we gladly support because it gives local designers the opportunity to showcase their talent and ingenuity

James Reyes, Designer
Philippine Fashion Week brings together designers from around the country. This makes it a good venue to share thoughts and ideas with everybody else. Hopefully, Fashion Week will unite all designers to work together to uplift our fashion industry and make the Philippines the design capital of South East Asia. It's the only way to make this industry compete against China, Thailand, and now India. It has to start somewhere, and Fashion Week should be the prime mover.

Alex Pigao, Designer
I would like to promote Philippine Fashion in the global market.

Carla Sibal, Editor-In-Chief,
Mega Magazine
We believe in the local talents of our local designers and this is the perfect venue to showcase their diverse talents.

Gerry Katigbak. Designer and Professor, Lasalle College International
I always believe that supporting Fashion Week is essential to showcase the designers' talents here and abroad..

Melvin Lachica, Designer
I have been participating in the Philippine Fashion Week for the last couple of years because I truly believe in the hard work that Audie and Joey Espino have put in for the Philippine fashion industry. Through Fashion Week, we can show the world that we have something to offer.]

Frederick Peralta, Designer
I believe in the vision of Runway Productions to uplift the Philippine Fashion Industry through promoting and uniting the Filipino designers in the hopes of building the nation by providing more jobs in the fashion industry.

Over 1200 new designs, 300 models, 106 designers, 10 days of fashion at PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK06

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PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK06

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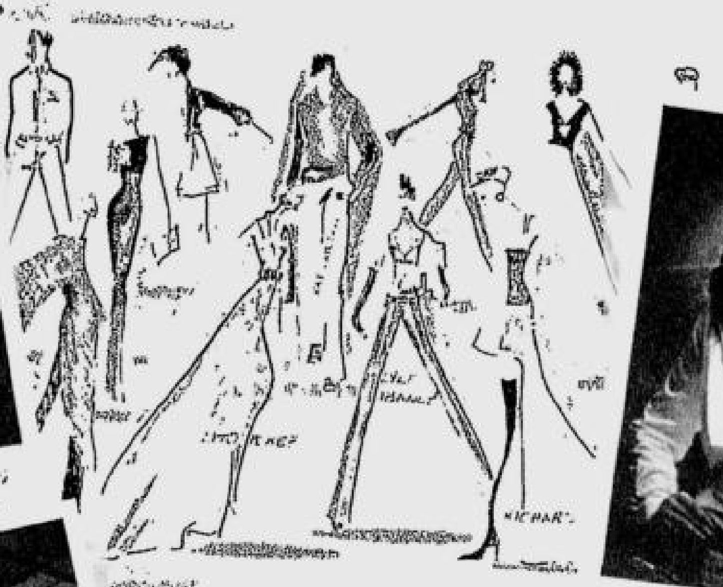
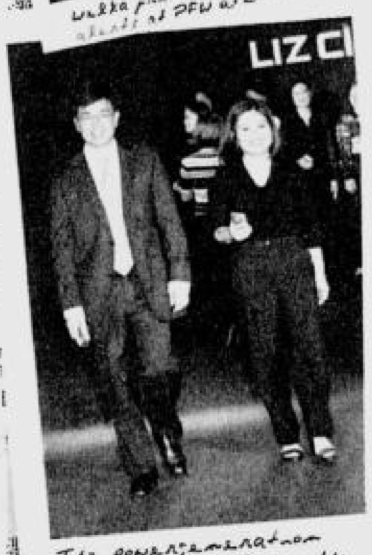
PFW brings on cutting edge fashion



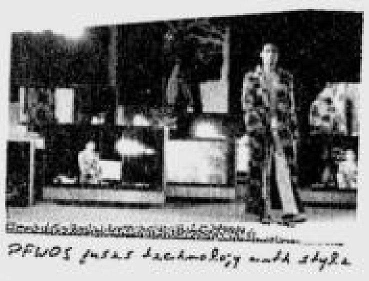
Wella presents its trend [illegible] at PFW [illegible]

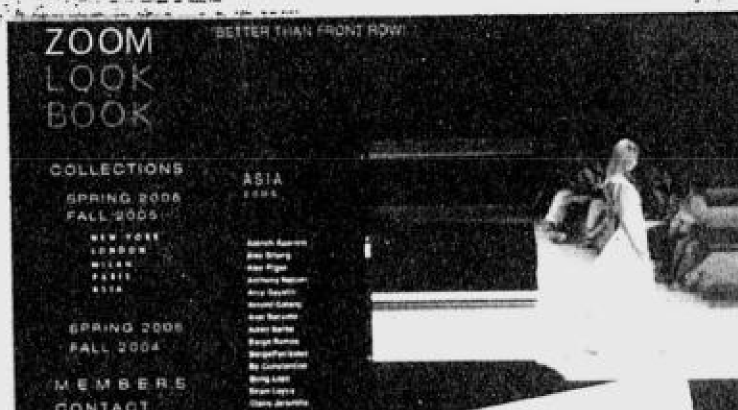


The power generation set their hands on the P900 last PFW2003

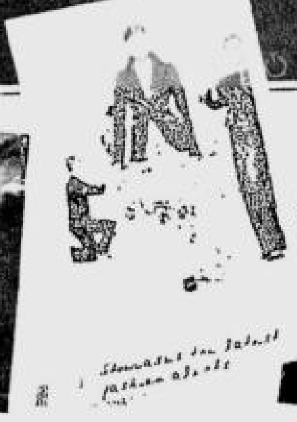
SARAH MEIER
MTV VJ | INTERNATIONAL MODEL AND THE K700
PERFECT AT THE
FASHION WEEK
The K700i sold out after PFW04 launched this campaign

Backstage beauty gets some Avon color


PFW05 fuses technology with style



Designers take a bow!


Showcases the latest fashion [illegible]

cyber-shot
SONY
Slim is in
Cyber-shot unveils its latest design at the Grand Finale Event of FASHION WEEK05
like.no other

WHY PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK?

Philippine Fashion Week has grown much bigger as it goes through 10 days on nonstop fashion. The country's best of the best in what's haute and happening comes together for a week. More than a hundred designers put their runway shows on. Even those all the way from the south come to town. The press is ready to get in the sites to view what's new. The hottest models are there. Everybody who lives for fashion will be there for 10 days straight!

Well aside from that, many came up with better reasons to be at Fashion Week....So why Fashion Week?

Rebecca Lopez, Professional Division Manager, Wella Philippines
The Philippine Fashion Week is the only event in the country that puts together anyone and everyone concerned with and can, influence the lifestyle of Filipinos

Tippi Ocampo, Designer
I'm supporting Philippine Fashion Week because it is supporting and promoting Philippine design talent as best as it can

Victor Consunji, Photographer
I believe that creativity is worth supporting. Philippine Fashion Week is an outlet for creativity and collaboration: If even just one Filipino talent benefits positively from the event, it would have been worth the effort.

Joel Escober, Designer
That local talent like me, is evident and showcasing designs is my way of proving that Philippine Fashion is worth supporting.

Pancho Escaler, Photographer
I'd like to be part of promoting the Philippine Fashion industry.

Jun Escario, Designer
Philippine Fashion Week is potentially a good venue to show the global competitiveness of the Filipino in fashion design.

Mel Cuevas, Editor-In-Chief, Metro Magazine
Part of Metro's thrust is to help promote the local fashion industry- Fashion Week is an event we gladly support because it gives local designers the opportunity to showcase their talent and ingenuity

James Reyes, Designer
Philippine Fashion Week brings together designers from around the country. This makes it a good venue to share thoughts and ideas with everybody else. Hopefully, Fashion Week will unite all designers to work together to uplift our fashion industry and make the Philippines the design capital of South East Asia. It's the only way to make this industry compete against China, Thailand, and now India. It has to start somewhere, and Fashion Week should be the prime mover.

Alex Pigao, Designer
I would like to promote Philippine Fashion in the global market.

Carla Sibal, Editor-In-Chief, Mega Magazine
We believe in the local talents of our local designers and this is the perfect venue to showcase their diverse talents.

Gerry Katigbak, Designer and Professor, Lasalle College International
I always believe that supporting Fashion Week is essential to showcase the designers' talents here and abroad.

Melvin Lachica, Designer
I have been participating in the Philippine Fashion Week for the last couple of years because I truly believe in the hard work that Audie and Joey Espino have put in for the Philippine fashion industry. Through Fashion Week, we can show the world that we have something to offer.]

Frederick Peralta, Designer
I believe in the vision of Runway Productions to uplift the Philippine Fashion Industry through promoting and uniting the Filipino designers in the hopes of building the nation by providing more jobs in the fashion industry.

Over 1200 new designs, 300 models, 106 designers, 10 days of fashion at PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK06

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Fashion and Music Lives in Each Generation

On April 1st, Saturday at 6pm, get into the NBC tent Sony Ericsson presents the Power Generation Fashion Forecast and the New Generation collection. Sony Ericsson is all geared up to present its Walkman and 3G handsets Sony Ericsson is spotlighting a vibrant lifestyle powered by formidable mobile phone technology that allows people to enhance their lives by pursuing their varied interests through their multifunctional handsets. stride into the tent hearing the latest Sony Ericsson Walkman phones and tune in to the hottest hits of your time.

At the 10-day event, which will be held from March 31 to April 9, Sony Ericsson once again proves that it is right in step with the global trends in mobile phone technology, as well as its users' changing lifestyles. Its Walkman phones—the new W810i, the W800i and the W550i—are sure to be the center of every audiophile's attention. And, no doubt, it's 3G mobile phones—the W900i (also a Walkman handset), the K608i, and the Z800i—will be tagged as possibly the most awe-inspiring devices in its comprehensive mobile phone showcase.

"Sony Ericsson users are a diverse set of people," said Sony Ericsson General Manager Dennis Manzano. "But they're all very much into maximizing the use of their handsets. Nowadays, people never leave home without their handsets. The mobile phone has become an integral part of our lives."

"With Sony Ericsson handsets, the public is assured of being at the forefront of technology. And we have something to offer for every segment of the market—be it for those who want to keep things simple and efficient or those who want to try out the latest mobile phone features and applications. The Walkman phones, for instance, cater to just about everyone. Apart from the strong music proposition, these also have megapixel cameras and a host of other features," Manzano added.

As nifty tune carriers, the W900i, W810i, the W800i and the W550i are powerful music players with everything one needs for a mobile music lifestyle. Functioning as digital music players, the Walkman phones have FM radio, music management software, and accessories to make music listening a pure pleasure.

"The best thing about these Walkman phones is that they enable

Fashion Designs for a Cause

Mark your calendars on April 7, Friday at 6pm! Be at the Glorietta Activity Center and check out the latest fashion by The Premier Collection of Alex Pigao, Anthony Nocom, Avel Bacudio, Frederick Peralta, Gerry Katigbak, Lyle Ibanez, Rajo Laurel, and Raoul Ramirez.

Designers from Alex Pigao, Raoul Ramirez, to Mich Dulce designed fabulous bags for your cyber-shot. These one of a kind accessories will be displayed at the Sony booth and Glorietta Activity Center. They will be auctioned off at www.sonyphilippines.com.ph. Proceeds will go to the landslide victims of St. Bernard of Maasin, Southern Leyte.

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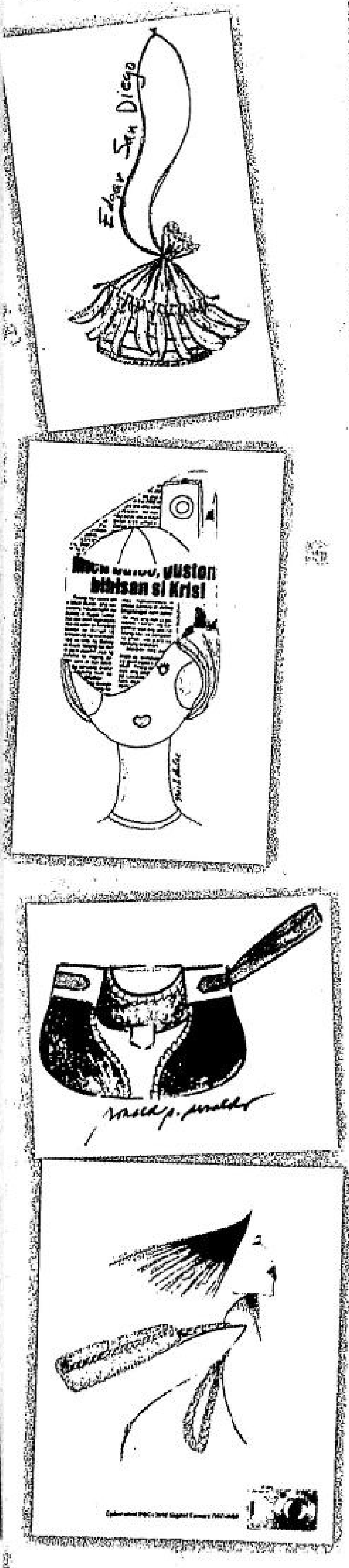

Designer accessories From top to bottom: Edgar San Diego, Mich Dulce, Ronaldo Arnaldo and Alex Pigao.

SONY

Cyber-shot

SUPER MODEL

Super Model of the World
International Finals 2nd Runner-up
Charo Ronquillo

DSC-T9 P 32,999
- 6.2 Mega Pixels
- 58 MB Internal memory
- Super Steadyshot
- Slide Show with music

DSC-T7 P 27,999
- 5.1 Mega Pixels
- Super Slim
- 3x Optical Zoom
- Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
- 2.5" Hybrid LCD

DSC-T5 P 24,999
- 5.1 Mega Pixels
- Fashionable Design
- 2.5" Hybrid Clear Photo LCD
- Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
- 32 MB Internal Memory

DSC-N1 P 33,999
- 8.1 Mega Pixels
- Touch Screen Clear Photo LCD
- Slide Show with Music
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DSC-W50 P 29,999
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- 32MB Internal Memory
- 2.5" Large LCD Screen
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DSC-W30 P 29,999
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- 32MB Internal Memory
- 2.5" Large LCD Screen
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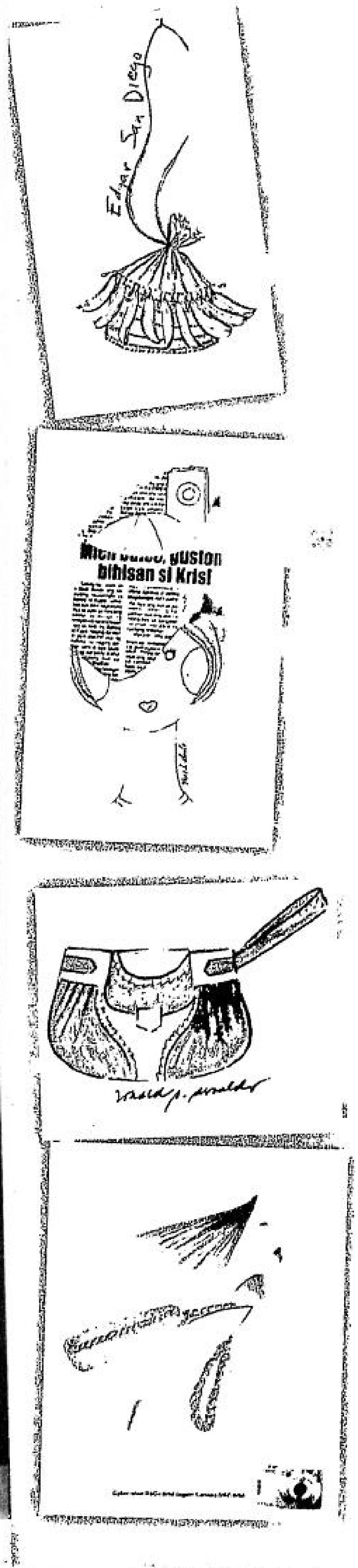
Edgar San Diego
Mich Dulce, guston bihisan si Kris!

Designer accessories From top to bottom: Edgar San Diego, Mich Dulce, Ronaldo Arnaldo and Alex Pigao.

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Capture moments of style and fashion tendencies

For those seduced by the most intricate pattern and details, Catch the Grand Allure Collection on April 4, Tuesday 6:30pm at NBC ten captured by precision and sharp contrasting of the stylish Sony DVD Handycam.

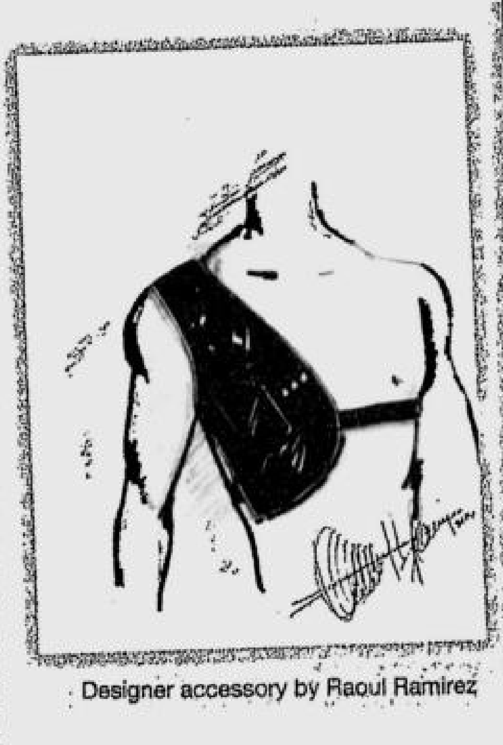
Using the new Sony DVD Handycam, student videographers will be roaming at the NBC tents seamlessly documenting the best behind the scenes of the moment. From backstage beauty tips, fashion trend alerts, model behavior, and designer inspirations, to red carpet celebrity interviews, the Sony DVD handycam will be all around to cover the ultimate fashion experience.

The DVD Handycam Range led by flagship model DCR-DVD905, which boasts 4 mega pixels of power instead of the usual VGA resolution in most camcorders. Sony's comprehensive line of Handycams, which include mid-range models DCR-DVD805 and DCR-DVD755, and entry-level DCR-DVD605, carry the ClearVid CMOS Sensor that guarantees exceptional video clarity and high quality still images and allows for playback on home theatre systems with 5.1 Surround Sound capabilities for realistic scene experience. So seen and be seen by the DVD handycam and enjoy your red carpet moment!

New Sony DVD Handycam models DCR-DVD905, DVD805, DVD755, DVD705 and DVD605 are designed to be your ultimate fashion accessory. Each model hollers the mantra of easy shoot, easy playback, and easy share. After all, Sony DVD Handycams have the best DVD recording compatibility, offering support for DVD-R, DVD-RW, and even DVD+RW, which let you instantly playback the video you shot on most DVD players without the need to finalize.

The DCR-DVD755, DVD805, and DVD905 each have a Memory Stick Duo slot for the option to store and easy transfer of still images. A PictBridge connection allows selection of pictures to be printed directly on PictBridge capable printer with the use of a computer.

Planning your vacation after fashion week? Don't forget your Sony DVD Handycam, it's as essential as your lipstick! Make sure to equip them with high-quality Sony DVD media, whether DVD-R, DVD-RW, or DVD+RW. The new Sony DVD Handycam series are available in Sony Squares and authorized Sony dealers nationwide.



Designer accessory by Raoul Ramirez

SONY
HANDYCAM®
shoot
playback in 5.1ch Surround Sound
share
like.no.other™

DVD Handycam® ▸ Capture the thrills in 5.1ch. Surround Sound!

Superb images. Intense Surround Sound. Maximum ease-of-use. Sony's latest range of DVD Handycam® models combine the heart-pounding realism of 5.1ch. Surround Sound with stunning picture quality and the convenience of DVD format recording.
Record sounds from every direction while shooting your video and relive every exciting roar when you instantly playback and share on your 5.1ch surround home theatre system. It's like being there all over again!

Sony's latest range of DVD Handycam® models

Model	Features	Price
DVD605*	• 1/6" Advanced HAD CCD • Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens • 20x Optical Zoom/ 800x Digital Zoom	P36,999
DVD705*	• 1/5.5" 1.0 Mega Pixel CCD • Mega Pixel Engine • High Quality 16:9 Widescreen Recording	P44,999
DVD755	• 1/5.5" 1.0 Mega Pixel CCD • Mega Pixel Engine • Memory Stick Duo slot • Comes w/ External Mic	P54,999
DVD805	• 1/3" 3.31 Mega Pixels CCD • Mega Pixel Engine • High Resolution 3.0 Mega Pixels Still Image	P64,999
DVD905	• ClearVid CMOS Sensor with Enhanced Imaging Processor • Carl Zeiss Vario-Sonnar T* Lens • 4 Mega Pixels Still Image Recording • 3.5" Clear Photo LCD Plus Touch Screen	P74,999

* DVD605 & DVD705 are not equipped with Dolby Digital 5.1 Creator Surround Sound recording function.

8cm DVD

DVD-Recordable			DVD-Rewritable			DVD+Rewritable		
DMR30S1	DMR60DSS1	3DMR30S1	DMW30S2	DMW60DSS2	3DMW30S2	DPW30S2	DPW60DSS2	3DPW30S2
30 mins.	60 mins.	30 mins. (3 pcs.)	30 mins.	60 mins.	30 mins. (3 pcs.)	30 mins.	60 mins.	30 mins. (3 pcs.)
P 199	P 399	P 549	P 299	P 599	P 799	P 299	P 599	P 799

• For more info regarding promotions and compatible accessories, pls. contact below or visit your nearest Authorized Sony dealers.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0647 Series of 2006

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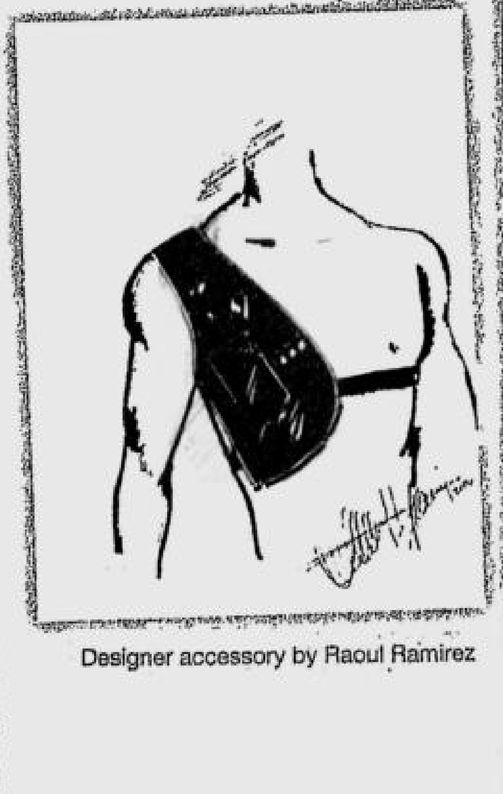

Designer accessory by Raoul Ramirez

SONY
HANDYCAM®

shoot

playback

share

Handycam: Capture the [illegible] in 5.1ch Surround Sound!

[illegible]

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DVD-Rewritable
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like.no.other™

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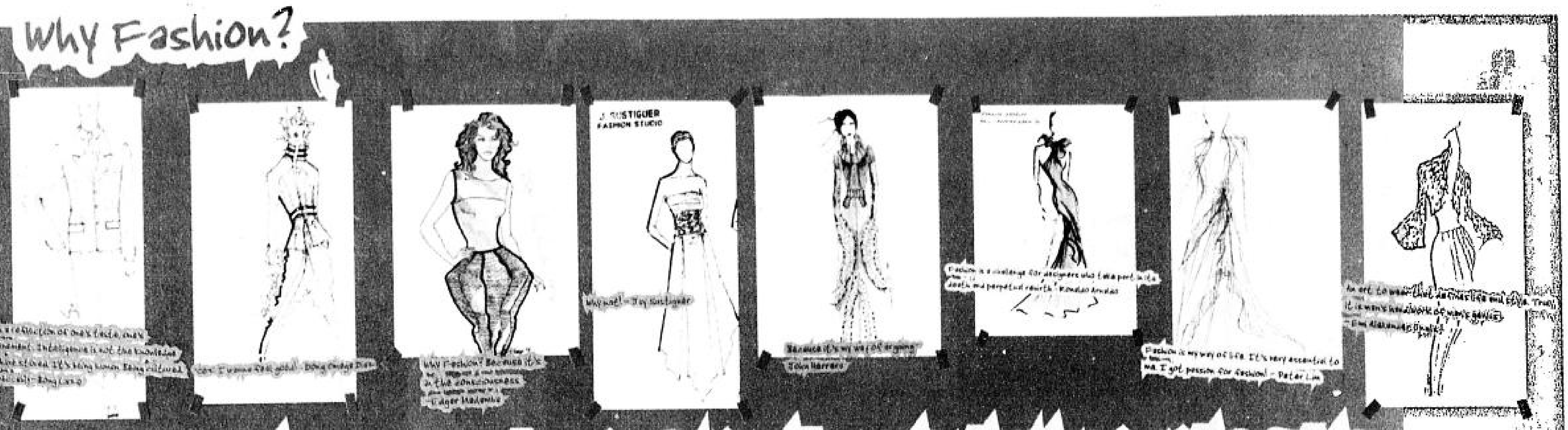

J. RUSTIGUER FASHION STUDIO
Fashion is my way of life. It's very essential to me. I got passion for fashion! - Peter Lim

Designers express their passions, inspiration, and profound insights on Fashion through words and their sketches.

Experience High Definition Style with Sony Bravia at Philippine Fashion Week 2006

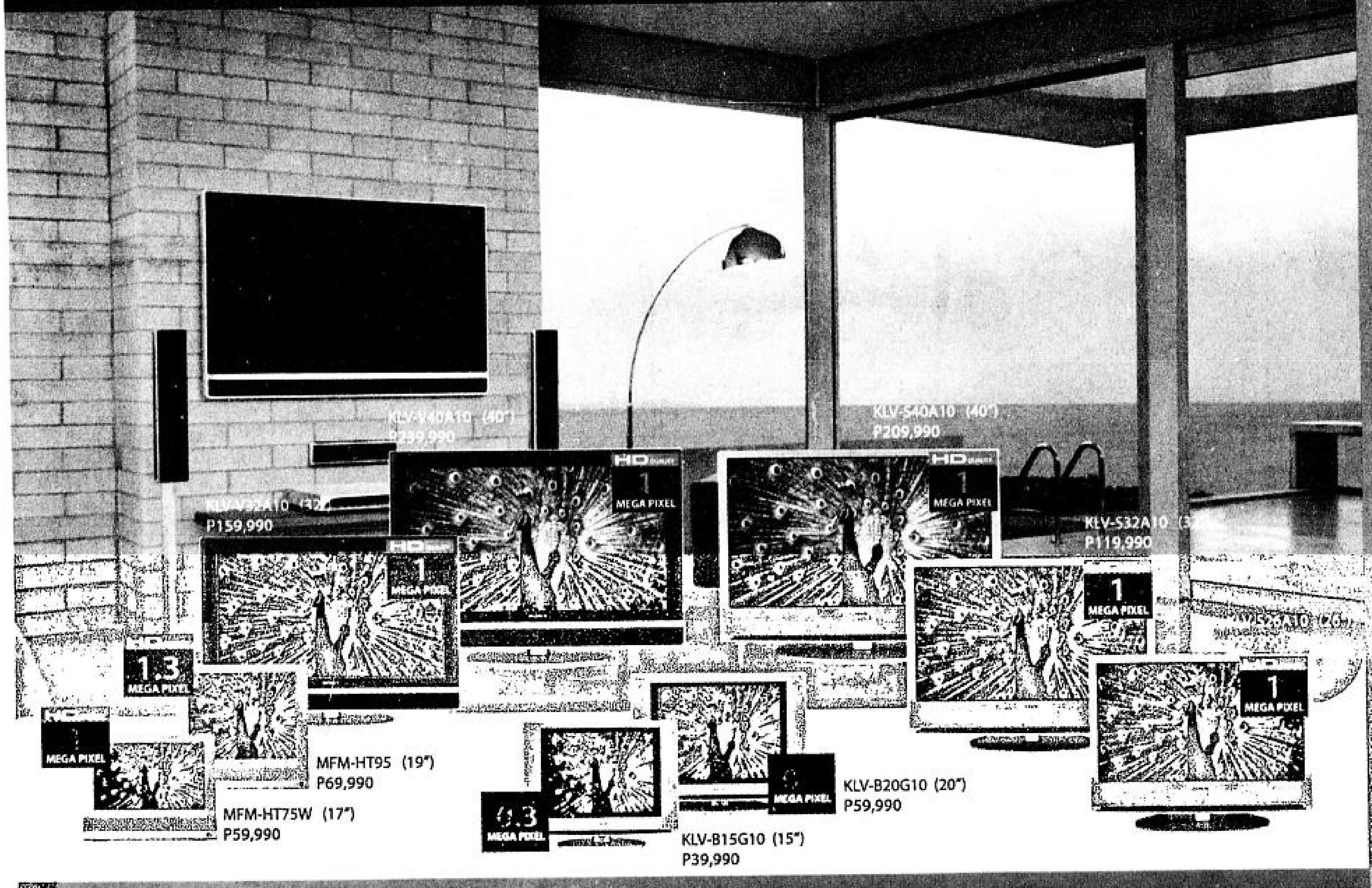
Get ready for ten days of fashion frenzy, runway shows, "power" launches and the best in clothes, accessories, communications and entertainment. Major presentor Sony Philippines pushes its bid for turning the world of consumer electronics into a world of consumer entertainment.

One megapixel strong, the Bravia series is engineered through an intelligent picture enhancement system that integrates a host of unique technologies and circuitry to enable full and precise digital image processing. See Fashion live and alive through the Sony Bravia placed all over the Fashion Week sites, at the NBC tent and Glorietta Activity Center. Preview the newest in Filipino couture and check out all those delicious looks sure to fill the catwalks by way of the Bravia's exceptional resolution and picture quality that earned it the reputation for being the most comprehensive LCD television range ever to be launched in Asia. It does not stand for "Best Resolution Audio Visual Integrated Architecture" for nothing. Outstanding clarity, reduced noise and improved depth and contrast make for an ideal, real-world viewing.

Sony's propriety technology, called the Wide Color Gamut CCFL, highlights deeper, richer hues. In tandem with its sensational sound quality plus an array of connectivity options, the Bravia series promises to light up Philippine Fashion Week 2006 with bright displays which detail the creative fabrics, kaleidoscope of colors, sleek lines, structural innovation and subtlety that form the finest of Philippine fashion.

Sony is a major presentor of the 2006 Philippine Fashion Week. Sony products are available at Sony Square Gateway, Megamall, and Park Square and at Sony authorized dealers nationwide. For more information, please contact the Sony Contact Center at 878-7600, email info_sph@ap.sony.com or log on to www.sony.com.

SONY like.no.other™


KLV-V40A10 (40")
P239,990
KLV-S40A10 (40")
P209,990
KLV-V32A10 (32")
P159,990
KLV-S32A10 (32")
P119,990
KLV-S26A10 (26")
MFM-HT95 (19")
P69,990
MFM-HT75W (17")
P59,990
KLV-B20G10 (20")
P59,990
KLV-B15G10 (15")
P39,990
HD
1 MEGA PIXEL
1.3 MEGA PIXEL
0.3 MEGA PIXEL

BRAVIA
Best Resolution Audio Visual Integrated Architecture

Sony's BRAVIA LCD Television offers new level of entertainment you have yet to encounter anywhere else. It integrates exceptional technologies and sophisticated appeal to bring you an impactful visual experience unlike any other.

WEGA Engine

- Stunningly clear images with minimal noise.
- Amazing details and sharpness.
- Superb contrast between black and white images.

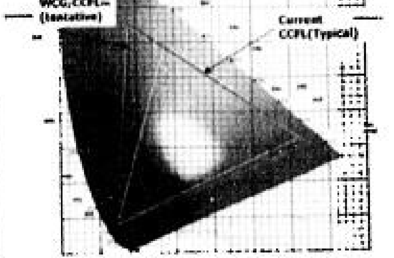
WEGA ENGINE

Wide Color Gamut - CCFL (for Bravia V Series)

- 30% increase in colour reproduction Vs. current CCFL used to conventional LCD TV.
- Precise color vibrancy and intensity.

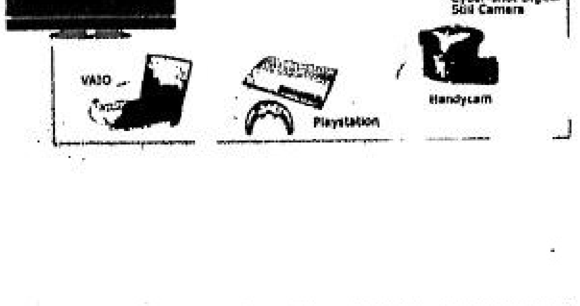
Conventional CCFL

WCG-CCFL



Extended Connectivity

- Maximum versatility with wide input interface range.
- HDMI (High Definition Multimedia Interface)(for V Series)
- Video, PC (for V & S Series) and USB interface (for V Series)


Cable Satellite
DVD Player
Cyber-shot Digital Still Camera
VAIO
Playstation
Handycam

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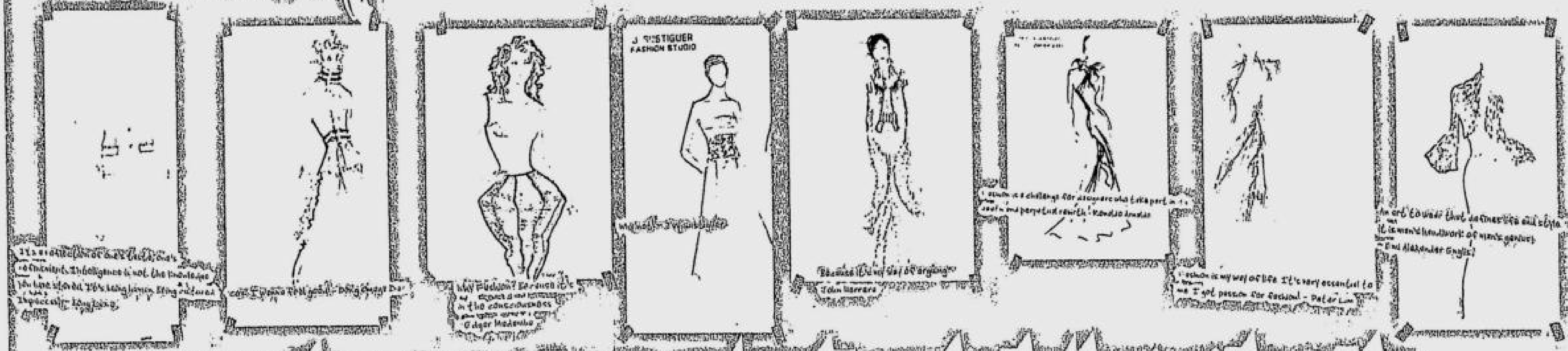
Why Fashion?



Designers express their passions, inspiration, and profound insights on Fashion through words and their sketches.

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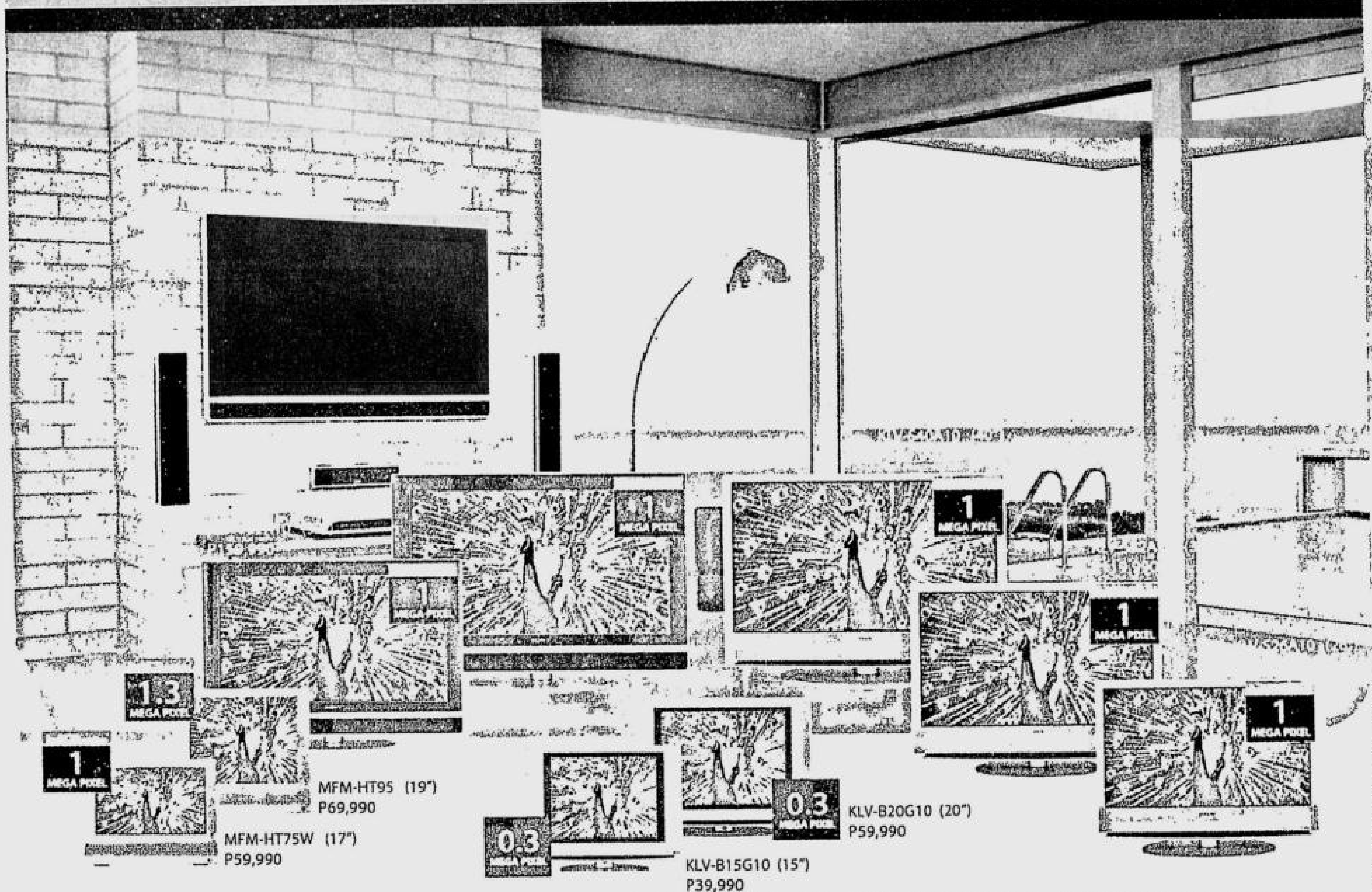
SONY like.no.other™



MFM-HT95 (19") P69,990
MFM-HT75W (17") P59,990
KLV-B20G10 (20") P59,990
KLV-B15G10 (15") P39,990

BRAVIA
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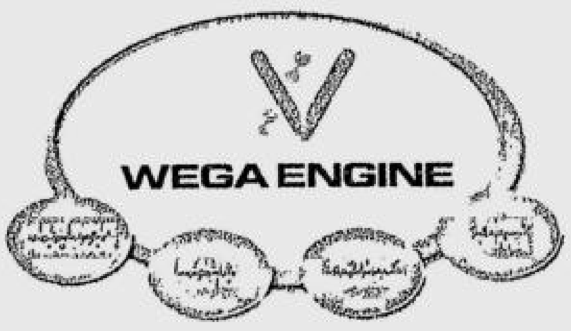

Wide Color Gamut - CCFL (for Bravia V Series)
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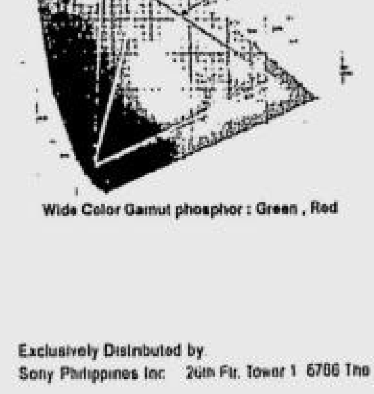
Conventional CCFL
WCG CCFL



Wide Color Gamut phosphor : Green , Red

Extended Connectivity
- Maximum versatility with wide input interface range
- HDMI (High Definition Multimedia Interface)(for V Series)
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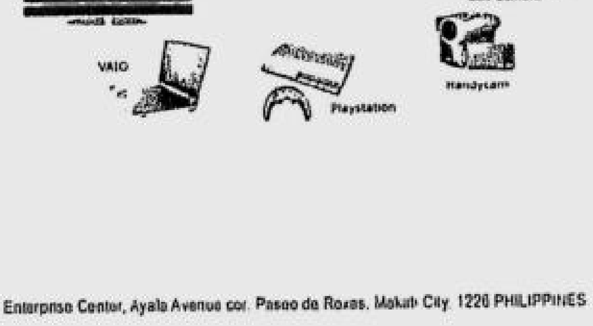

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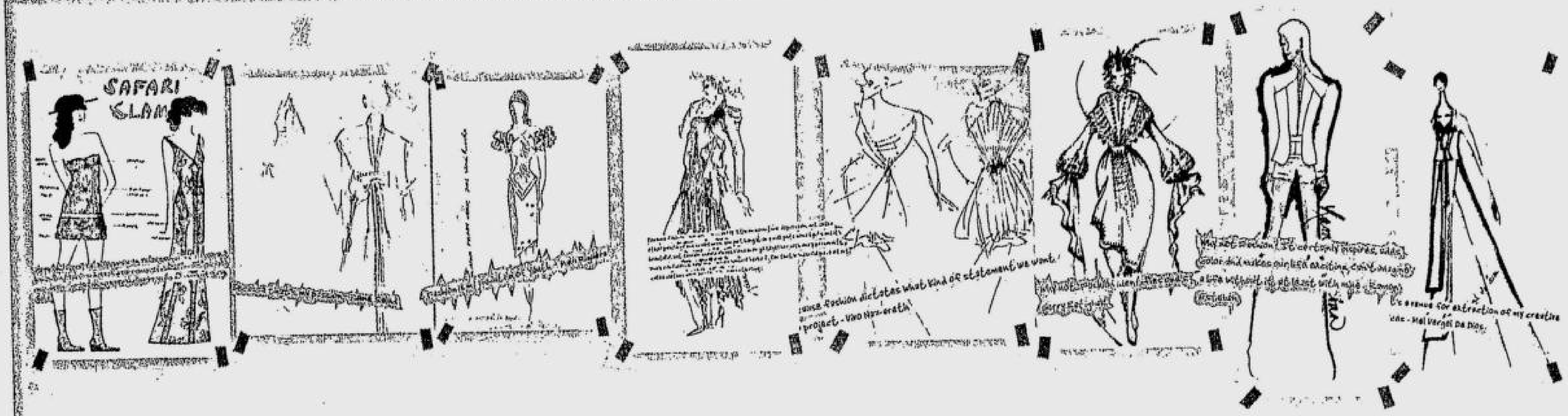


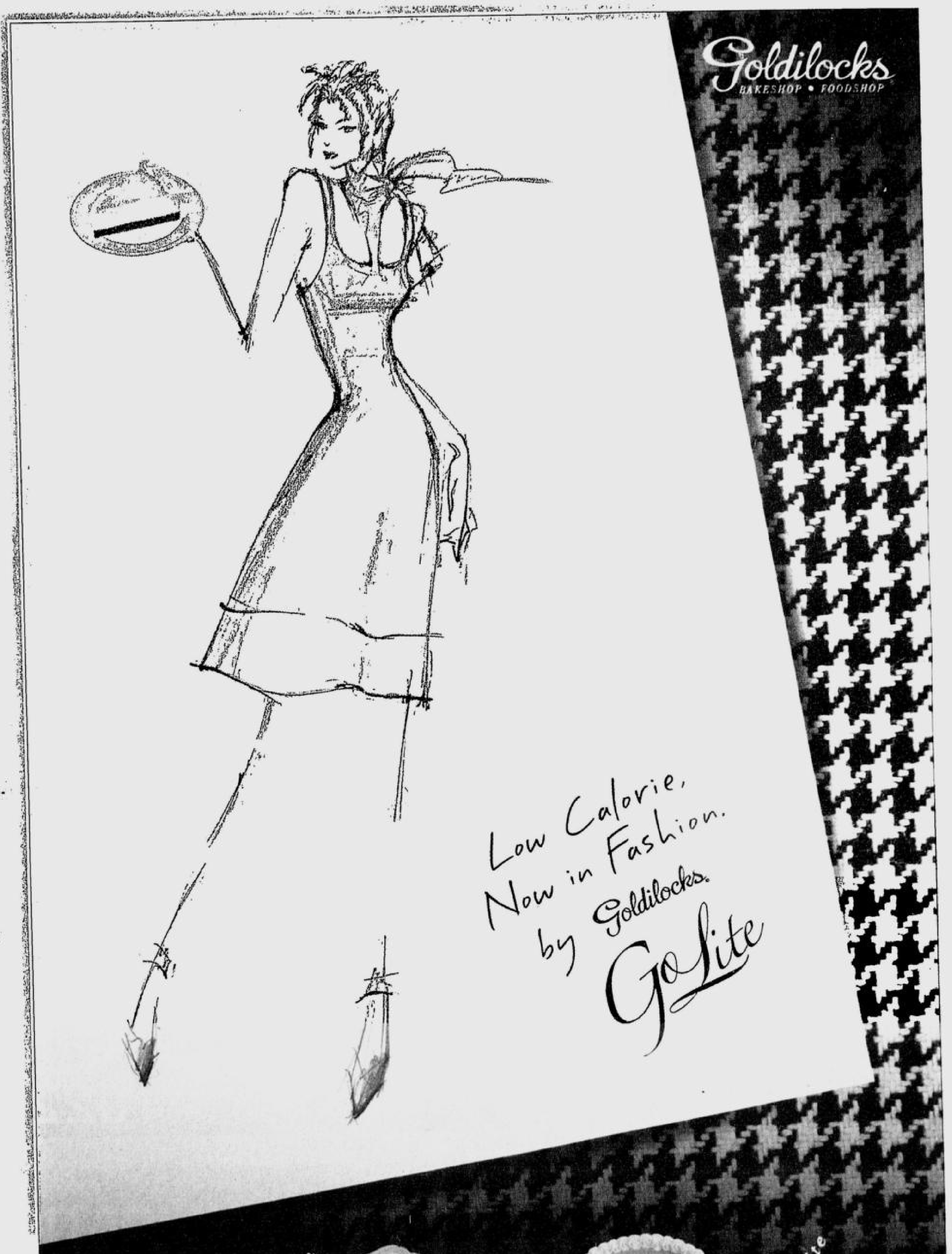
Fashion Never Tasted This Good!!! Goldilock's Goes Light

To be fashion conscious would also mean having to skip a couple of sweet snacks to get into that perfect size 2. Unfortunately, some desserts are simply hard to resist, and a few sugary fixes adds those few inches. Not everyone is blessed with that perfect fit. As Marie Antoinette would say, "Let them eat cake." If only it were that easy.

Perhaps now it is. Goldilocks gets into the limelight this Philippine Fashion Week, as the now-fashionable brand introduces its delectable delights so light, that dieting now becomes a piece of cake!

The sweet sensation of Vanilla Lite Cake and Mango Mousse Lite is surprisingly sugar-free. " All these healthy products under the umbrella name Goldilocks Go Lite. As such we would like to communicate to the public that Goldilocks is now offering healthy products (Goldilocks Go Lite) and is already now in fashion.". Says Sali Sauco, Marketing Manager of Goldilocks. These delicious desserts entice the style-setters for this season. The line starts now for that must-have bite. Do you feel light?

Go Lite products are now available at your Goldilocks outlet.


Goldilocks
BAKESHOP • FOODSHOP

Low Calorie,
Now in Fashion.
by Goldilocks.
GoLite

sugar-free mamon
vanilla lite cake
mango mousse lite

Goldilocks 40 Thoughtful Years

Made with Sucralose, the low-calorie sweetener.

FREE Sugar-Free Mamon with every purchase of Vanilla Lite Cake or Mango Mousse Lite (8" round) premium cake.
Promo duration is from March 27-April 30, 2006 • Per DOH-BFAD permit no 0329 Series of 2006

Sony Ericsson

Sony Ericsson
J220i J230i

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J220i
FEATURES

- Simplicity and ease of use
- Single or multi-icon menu
- Style up covers
- Large phone book and SMS storage

J230i
FEATURES

- Built-in FM radio
- Stereo hands free
- Speakerphone
- Large phone book and SMS storage
- Style upcovers

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SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2006

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zambales
Municipality of Sta. Cruz
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform
Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

March 26, 2006
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ***Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII)*** and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under contract located in Eastern Sta. Cruz ARC, Brgy. Lucapon South, Municipality of Sta. Cruz, Province of Zambales. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Sta. Cruz, Province of Zambales and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the ***Construction of 1.54 kms. Sitio Subol Road (Phase I) Road*** under ***Contract No. RIRC 06 162 03 ESC-Z.***

Project Duration : 60 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents : PHP 5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security : PHP 54,500.00
Bid Closing Date : April 25, 2006 @ 10:00 AM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing (Sides of the Road)	9,240.00	sq.m.
12	Roadway and Drainage Excavation	5,064.00	cu.m.
14(1)	Embankment Using Excavated Materials	4,304.40	cu.m.
14(2)	Embankment From Borrow Materials	284.10	cu.m.
20	Aggregate Sub-base Course	924.00	cu.m.
21	Aggregate Base Course	924.00	cu.m.
50 (3)	610mm dia. RCPC	24.00	ln.m.
50 (5)	1200mm dia. RCPC	8.00	ln.m.
54	Grouted Riprap (Slope Protection and Headwalls	374.00	cu.m.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned; Vibratory Road Roller (1 unit)-owned; Road Grader (1 unit)-owned; Loader (1 unit)-owned; 10 Wheeler Dump Truck (8 units)-owned; Water Truck (1 unit)-owned; Soil Laboratory/Field Testing Equipment (1 lot)-owned; survey instruments (1 set)-owned/leased.

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, Municipality of Sta. Cruz, Province of Zambales, starting March 27, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 5,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on April 12, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of PhP 54,500.00 in the form of; Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a freely convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office, Municipality of Sta. Cruz, Province of Zambales, on or before the Bid closing date on April 25, 2006 at 10:00 AM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Sta. Cruz, Zambales reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) Engr. DENNIS B. MARY
Chairman, LGU BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI – March 26, 2006)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BAGUIO
Governor Pack Road, 2600 Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 442-3888

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines Baguio, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CSS BUILDING
Location : UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BAGUIO CAMPUS
Brief Description : Construction of a three-storey CSS Building
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : Php 27,000,000.00
Contract Duration : 300 calendar days

Prospective bidders (of at least Medium A category) should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility / Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 21 – April 7, 2006
2. Last day for the receipt of Letter of Intent (LOI)/ Receipt and Opening of Eligibility Requirements (Eligibility Requirements must be received not later than 8:30 AM at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration; Opening of Eligibility requirements at 9:00 AM at the Chancellor's Conference Room)/ Eligibility check for civil works/ Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	April 10, 2006
3. Issuance of Bid Documents/ Preparation of Bids	April 11 – 30, 2006
4. Pre-bid Conference (9:00 am at the Chancellor's Conference Room)	April 20, 2006
5. Receipt and Opening of Bids (Bids must be received not later than 8:30 AM at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration; Opening of bids at 9:00AM at the Chancellor's Conference Room)	May 2, 2006
6. Bid Evaluation	May 2 – 5, 2006
7. Post-qualification	May 8 – 12, 2006
8. Notice of Award	May 15, 2006
9. Notice to Proceed	May 31, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Supply & Property Management Office c/o Mr. Rogelio S. Movilla, Jr., upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P 500.00) to the University of the Philippines Baguio Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) to the University of the Philippines Baguio Cashier.

The University of the Philippines Baguio assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. The UP Baguio reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous to the University.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) BIENVENIDO C. MARZAN
BAC Chairman

(PDI – March 19 & 26, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites firms to apply for eligibility and short-listing and if found eligible and short-listed, to bid for ***One (1) lot Delivery, Installation, configuration, testing and implementation of a BSP Employee Self-Service Portal per BSP's Request for Proposal.***

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this consultancy services is P30 Million.

The Bank Employee Self Service (BESS) will involve the provision of databases, knowledge management tools and employee related processes online to enable greater data accessibility for employees. It comprises tools, utilities, hardware together with the needed operating systems and all software licenses and services required to operationalize the proposed system.

The list of minimum eligibility requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Short-listing of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria:

1. The firm must be able to demonstrate successful implementation of its past projects with at least one (1) successfully operating Employee Self-Service installed during the past four (4) years. The solution in the nominated reference site must be the same as the solution proposed for the BSP and each site must have been in production for at least one (1) year from date of bid submission. The following details should be provided:
   - a. Name of the organization
   - b. Name of the appropriate referee contact and current telephone number, fax number, e-mail address;
   - c. Contract amount and duration;
   - d. Role(s) undertaken by the bidder at the reference site; and
   - e. Customer contact names, address and phone numbers/e-mail address
2. The firm must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance for completed contract/s from the client for the required project.
3. In case of a joint venture, the BSP intends to contract with a single entity. Bidders as the prime contractors shall take full responsibility for all sub-contracted services and must, in their bid, include sufficient and relevant information on joint venture partners.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Approach procedure through a weighted scoring system that simultaneously considers both the overall technical quality of the solution and the financial bid (60-40). The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on **27 March to 10 April 2006** upon submission of a letter of intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Bid documents will be available only to short-listed bidders (top five (5) shall be considered) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P15,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive defect or any formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI—March 26, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
TransCo

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Concreting of Laydown Area at Naga Substation

Brief Description:

An area of approximately 768 sq.m. shall be utilized as laydown area located near the EHV Warehouse which shall be concreted and enclosed with cyclone wire fence.

[TRANS-06-CLAN-EG-03]

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of ***Eight Hundred Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty One Pesos and 38/100 (Php808, 381.38)*** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***the Concreting of Laydown Area at Naga Substation.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the ***Concreting of Laydown Area at Naga Substation.*** Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, General Building"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Small B, Building and Industrial Plant"***, respectively, have completed a similar contract involving supply of all labor, materials, supervision necessary for the ***construction of structures made of concrete.*** The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***April 18, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***forty (40) calendar days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***March 27 to April 11, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,000.00.*** They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***April 18, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***April 18, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** *Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***April 25, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***Php1,000.00.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***April 25, 2006, 8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P. M.***

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***May 4, 2006, 9:00 A. M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R. A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***May 4, 2006, 9:30 A.M*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B, Transco-SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera – BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to78 local 4086; 4094; 4053
rgcastuera@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph.

(Sgd). RUBEN G. CASTUERA
BAC Chairman

(PDI–March 26 & April 3, 2006)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
Basement MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-33-66, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO BID

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested suppliers to pre-qualify and participate in the scheduled e-Bid for the supply and delivery of the following item:

Quantity.	Description
1,205 Drums	CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE, Ca (Ocl)2 AWWA B-300-92)
As per MWSI Technical Specifications & Bid Terms & Condition	

Interested bidders may, beginning March 27, 2006 until March 31, 2006 and **upon payment of the non-refundable participating fee of Two Thousand Pesos Only (P2,000.00)**, obtain further information and secure a complete set of pre-qualification forms and bid terms and condition (bid documents) from Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSI Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City. Telephone Nos. 435-3366/435-3374; Fax No. 928-2303. Payment may be in the form of Cash or Manager's Check addressed to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

MWSI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive and all informalities therein and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) LUIS M.Z. LERMA
Manager, Purchasing Dept.

(PDI – March 26 & 27, 2006)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
Basement MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-33-66, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO BID

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested suppliers to pre-qualify and participate in the scheduled e-Bid for the supply and delivery of the following item:

Quantity.	Description
10 Sets	Portable Insertion Type Flow Meters with Data Logger (including five (5) pieces Communication Cables)
As per MWSI Technical Specifications & Bid Terms & Condition	

Interested bidders may, beginning March 27, 2006 to March 31, 2006 and **upon payment of the non-refundable participating fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos Only (P2,500.00)**, obtain further information and secure a complete set of pre-qualification forms and bid terms and condition (bid documents) from Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSI Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City. Telephone Nos. 435-3366/435-3374; Fax No. 928-2303. Payment may be in the form of Cash or Manager's Check addressed to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

MWSI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive and all informalities therein and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) LUIS M.Z. LERMA
Manager, Purchasing Dept

(PDI–March 26 & 27, 2006)

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e-mail us at: esbabas@unionbankph.com or visit us at: www.unionbankph.com

RESIDENTIAL

CAVITE - Molino III, Bacoor	MIN BID
Central Phase 2, Springville Subd. (Lots)	
1 L 2 B 1, near ClubHse /LA 96	677,000
2. L 2 B 2, near ClubHse /LA 108	762,000
3 L 3 B 2, near ClubH e / LA 97	684,000
4. L 8 B 3, near ClubHse /LA 142	1,002,000
5. L 24 B 7,MB Villar Ave /LA 120	974,000
Madelaine Place, Springville Subd.	
6. Lot / Lot 8 Blk 1 / LA 117	582,000
7 Lot / Lot 6 Blk 4 / LA 120	596,000
8. Lot / Lot 10 Blk 3 / LA 123	611,000
9. Lot / Lot 18 Blk 6 / LA 132	656,000
10 Lot / Lot 19 Blk 7 / LA 132	656,000
Washington Manor, Springville Subd.	
11. Lot / Lot 16 Blk 2 / LA 145	961,000
12. Lot / Lot 2 Blk 2 / LA 154	1,020,000
13 Lot / Lot 18 Blk 2 / LA 162	1,073,000
CAVITE- Brgy. Palangue, Naic	**MIN BID**
Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	
14. Lot 6 Blk 19A / LA 1,249	1,249,000
15 Lot 5 Blk 19B / LA 3,052	3,052,000
16. Lot 8 Blk 19B / LA 1,890	1,890,000
17. Lot 9 Blk 19B / LA 2,247	2,585,000
18 Lot 1 Blk 24 / LA 1,624	1,868,000
Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club - Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
FAIRWAY LOTS	
19. Lot 46 Blk 50 / LA 630	2,394,000
20 Lot 49 Blk 50 / LA 582	2,212,000
21. Lot 50 Blk 50 / LA 627	2,383,000
NON - FAIRWAY LOTS	
22 Lot 12 Blk 38 / LA 653	1,959,000
23. Lot 06 Blk 45 / LA 1,085	3,255,000
24 Lot 07 Blk 45 / LA 752	2,256,000
CAVITE – Carmona (Lot)	**MIN BID**
25 L 28 B 4, Ph 1, St. Andrew St Manila Southwoods,Cabilang Baybay LA 450 (near Gate 1) * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	3,005,000
MAKATI CITY - Kingswood Twr	**MIN BID**
P. Tamo cor V. Cruz Extn, near Shopwise	
26. Penthse / Unit P2F, Tower B 28th & 29th flrs / FA 154	7,208,000
27. Penthse / Unit P3F,Tower B 26th & 27th flrs / FA - 154	7,208,000
BULACAN - MALOLOS	**MIN BID**
28 H&L / Lot 2 & 3 Blk 17,Desta Ave cor. 1st St, Desta Hms Brgy Atlag LA 515 / FA 293 (near Sto Cristo Diversion Rd)	2,428,000
BULACAN – Plaridel	**MIN BID**
Brgy. Lalangan - Plaridel Heights	
29 Cor Lot / L 2 B 47, LA 355	1,243,000
30 Cor. Lot / L 13 B 7, LA 404	1,414,000
31 Cor Lot / L 2 B 38, LA 411	1,439,000
32 Lot / Lot 25 Blk 8, LA 350	1,155,000
MUNTINLUPA – Alabang	**MIN BID**
San Jose Vill. (infront of Alabang Town Cntr)	
33 Lot / Lot 264 (Pcs 4946), St Joseph St / LA 526 * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	4,000,000
TAGAYTAY CITY	**MIN BID**
between Sta. Rosa, Lag. Short-cut & Aguinaldo H-way	
34 Lot/Lot 8, Tagaytay Calamba Rd, Tolentino West (over looking Taal Lake) LA 2,156 * wth Lis Pendens	20,000,000
CALOOCAN – Gracepark	**MIN BID**
35 Lot / L 25 & 26 B 31, 2nd St LA 388 (between 3rd & 4th Ave)	3,428,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	**MIN BID**
# 529 Pag Asa, Daan Sarili (near LTO)	
36 Lot / Lot 3 A 5 / LA 1,847	401,000
37 Lot / Lot 3 A 4 / LA 1,847	401,000
38 Lot / Lot 3 A 3 / LA 1,848	401,000
39 Lot / Lot 3 A 2 / LA 1,848	401,000
40. Lot / Lot 3 A 1 / LA 1,839	401,000
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
41 H&L/# 269 M Aquino St Banlat Rd,T Sora LA 120 / FA 191 (near NPC / NIA Subdivision)	1,350,000
VALENZUELA – Nr Malinta Exit	**MIN BID**
42 Lot / Lot 551 A 2 A 3, Pineda Compd. Bonifacio St / LA 1,114	2,241,000
ANGONO, Rzl. (via Antipolo)	**MIN BID**
43 Lot/L6 B2, Mills St, Sta Monica Classic Est, Ph 3, Mission Hills Brgy Colaique LA 540 (near Pines City)	1,700,000
MALABON- Brgy. Dampalit	**MIN BID**
North Merville Park I Subd (*w/ occupants)	
44 *L 1 B 14, J Cancio St/LA 186	110,000
45 *Lot 19 Blk 13A / LA 168	130,000

JUST BRING P20,000 (CASH OR MC) SHOW MONEY TO QUALIFY TO BID FOR EACH PROPERTY. CWT IS FOR THE BUYER'S ACCOUNT. ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS. Unionbank may, at anytime, withdraw any of the properties listed above prior to auction

RESIDENTIAL

TARLAC CITY	MIN BID
46. 2 Sty H&L / L 7 B 18, Family Park Homes, Brgy Cut-Cut II San Miguel / LA 62 / FA 40	255,000
47 Lot / Lot 3871 D, Sapang Maragul,Tibag /LA 10,001-nr Arch	2,652,000
LAGUNA – Sta. Rosa	**MIN BID**
48 Lot/Lot 18 Blk 3 Albright cor Baylor Sts, Golden Meadows Exec Vill Brgy Sinalhan / LA 140 (via Binan, nr Morales & Pavilion Malls)	453,000
SAN MATEO,RIZAL-Bo.Patiis	**MIN BID**
49 *Lot / B 15, LA 40,171	1,607,000
50 *Lot / B 16, LA 40,171	1,607,000
51 *Lot / B 17, LA 40,171	1,607,000
52. *Lot / B 18, LA 40,171	1,607,000
* No Right Of Way	
ANTIPOLO, RIZAL (Lots)	**MIN BID**
53 H&L, L-7 B-3, Valley Golf Dr Valley Golf Subd., Mayamot LA 1,961 / FA 107 (nr Ortigas Extn)	4,300,000
54 L 20 B 17, Jerusalem St, Palmera Hills,Ph-5,Brgy Uulan/LA 120 Via Tikling Junction & Melendres Subd)	299,000
55 L 23 B 10, Cottonwood Hts Bayugo / LA 266 (nr Sumulong)	1,332,000
56 L 21 B 2, Birchwood St, Cottonwood Hts, Bayugo / LA 355	1,778,000
57 Lot 47 Blk 18,Park Ridge Est Ph 3 (via Valley Golf) LA 811	1,852,000
58 L 17 B 1, Beverly St, Sta Barbara 1,Mission Hills Colaique/LA 1,021 (nr Pines City)	3,692,000
LAS PINAS – Talon Dos	**MIN BID**
59 2 Sty Thse/ # 475 C,North 11 St, Angela Vill, Brgy Talon 2 LA 68/FA 101 (access via Happy Vile)	1,400,000

COMMERCIAL / AGR.

(SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL)

MAKATI CITY	MIN BID
60 Comml / Resl Lot / # 3904 Quingua St, Brgy Pinagkaisahan LA 612 (beside Forbes Park) * w/ Final Supreme Court Decision	18,000,000
Millenium Plaza- Mktl. Ave cor Eduque St	
61 Condo Unit / 5/F, FA 261 (near former International Schl)	17,765,000
TARLAC CITY – Poblacion	**MIN BID**
Panganiban St. - across Iceplant	
62 Lot / Lot 4 A 1 / LA 373	5,390,000
63 Lot / Lot 4 A 2 / LA 373	5,390,000
64. Lot / Lot 4 A 3 / LA 374	5,405,000
65 Lot / Lot 4C, Rizal St/ LA 759	8,094,000
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
66 Building / Lots 8 & 9 Blk S 27 Timog Ave LA 1,380 FA 1,500 (nr Unionbank Br & GMA-7) *on Lease	70,000,000
67 Whouse / 185 Roosevelt Ave S F Del Monte / LA 5,641 FA 3,454 (infront of Watch Twr)	140,000,000
68 Warehouse / # 138 Gen Luis cor Pasacola Rd, Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches LA 49,504 / FA 23,384	300,000,000
MANILA – Divisoria (KP Twr.)	**MIN BID**
69 Condo, 2/F, CM Recto Ave cor Juan Luna St / FA 658 *on Lease	28,792,000
VALENZUELA CITY	**MIN BID**
70. Whse / Lot 13 Templanza St D Pedro Vill, Marulas LA 2,540 FA 3,314 (near Savory Rest)	18,209,000
71 Indl Lot w/ 2 Whses (14&16) Barracks, Canteen,Guardhse Lot 1075 D 1 C, Plastic City 6 T. Santiago St, Canumay-West LA 9,923 / FA 7,096	39,703,000
72 Indl Lot w/ Whse / # 47 Maysan Rd / LA 7,871 / FA 7,040 (near Maysan Elem School)	40,702,000
73 Industrial Lot / Lot 382 C Plastic City Housing,Canumay LA 25,798 (via T Santiago & Pinagbayanan Sts)	45,000,000
SARIAYA - QUEZON PROV.	**MIN BID**
74 Agri Lot w/ resl H&L, Whse & Piggery/Lot 6181 A 5 A 1 A 1 D, E,F,G,I & Lot 6181 A 4,Psd 4A 001202, Bo Sampaloc/ LA 101,038, FA 9,277 (along the Hi-way) * with Lis Pendens	45,053,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	**MIN BID**
# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	
75 Agri Lot / Lot 3B / LA 37,041	2,366,000
76 Comml Lot w/ Whse & Offc Lot 2H / LA 2,260 / FA 580	5,098,000
CAVITE - Tanza, Bo. Tres Cruces	**MIN BID**
nr Transville Subd, via Trece Martires	
77. Agri Lot / Lot-2931 (Rs-1273) LA 40,127 / * w/ Adverse Claim & No Right Of Way	5,117,000

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KAYTIKLING REALTY CORP.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE AT *50% OFF*

LOCATION	SQ. M. VALUE	PROPERTY BEFORE	PROPERTY NOW
METRO MANILA			
L4 B5 DAO ST. SAINT DOMINIC SUBD. II DEPARO, KALOOKAN CITY	234	585,000	292,500
L-8 M. DE GALICIA ST. BRGY. MAYSAN, VALENZUELA CITY	600	1,200,000	600,000
L8 B7 ROAD LOT 5 GOLDEN ACRES SUBD.TALON V, LAS PINAS CITY	240	600,000	300,000
L6 B7 ROAD LOT 5 GOLDEN ACRES SUBD.TALON V, LAS PINAS CITY	240	600,000	300,000
CENTRAL/NORTHERN LUZON			
BRGY BACSAY CAMILING, TARLAC	30,931	464,000	232,000
CAMP TINIO BO. SANGITAN, CABANATUAN CITY	1,819	1,819,000	909,500
CAMP TINIO BO. SANGITAN, CABANATUAN CITY	1,810	1,991,000	995,500
CAMP TINIO BO. SANGITAN, CABANATUAN CITY	1,599	1,599,000	799,500
CABANDE SUBD. MATAAS NA KAHOY, SAN ILDEFONSO, BULACAN	500	100,000	50,000
SOUTH LUZON			
CHRISTOPHER 2 SUBD.BO. MAYAPA, CALAMBA, LAGUNA	186	422,000	211,000
L5 MALABAN SUR, CANDELARIA, QUEZON	1,979	594,000	297,000
BO. CUYITO, PUERTO PRINCESA	1,000	1,000,000	500,000
L-59 E-2 BRGY. STA. MARIA, NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO	20,000	600,000	300,000
L-3-E BRGY. STA. MARIA, NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO	10,000	350,000	175,000
CAGAYAN VALLEY			
PADASION, SANTIAGO, ISABELA	774	2,462,000	1,231,000
BARRIO MARIA CLARA, DIFFUN, QUIRINO	4,961	993,000	496,500
BARRIO PATUL, SANTIAGO, ISABELA	500	1,000,000	500,000
WEST VISAYAS			
L25 B-14-A PUENTEBELLA SUBD., BACOLOD	250	175,000	87,500
L1280D BO. GRANADA, BACOLOD CITY	1,001	600,000	300,000
L531D-2 BO. SUM-AG, DIST., BACOLOD CITY	500	350,000	175,000
L-2444A-3 BO. HUNOD-HUNOD ESCALANTE, BAC.	600	360,000	180,000
L10-B POB. BINALBAGAN, NEG. OCC.	200	295,000	147,500
L-270 KABANKALAN, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	24,484	368,000	184,000
EAST VISAYAS			
BRGY. MARASBARAS, TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE	575	248,000	124,000
LT.3368 BO. MARASBARAS, TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE	2,872	2,300,000	1,150,000
SAN VICENTE, CATBALOGAN, WESTERN SAMAR	21,268	43,000	21,500
3864 MABINI, BARANGAY QUEZON JR. ORMOC CITY	25,893	130,000	65,000
NORTH MINDANAO			
KATIPUNAN RD. BRGY. STA.ISABELA, DIPOLOG CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE	149.25	150,000	75,000
BO. ANTONGALAN , BUTUAN, AGUSAN DEL NORTE	26,250	525,000	262,500
POBLACION BUUG, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	200	80,000	40,000
PUROK BULAWANAN BRGY. MADASIGON, MOLAVE, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	504	403,000	201,500
SOUTH MINDANAO			
PUROK 1 BO. LANAO, KIDAPAWAN, COTABATO	432	363,000	181,500
RAMON RABAGO SR. AVE. COR. JULIANA AVE., COTABATO	488	752,000	376,000
JUPITER ST. BO. KAKAR, COTABATO CITY	500	520,000	260,000
BO. KAKAR, COTABATO CITY	400	1,000,000	500,000
BO. COLINA, COTABATO CITY	1,250	258,000	129,000
ROSARY HEIGHTS, COTABATO CITY	645	250,000	125,000
BRGY. ROAD CR. NATIONAL H-WAY, BGRY. POBLACION , STO. NINO, S. COTABATO	252	106,000	53,000
JP LAUREL ST., BRGY.POBLACION, SURALIA, SOUTH COTABATO	500	250,000	125,000
MARIAN HEIGHTS, DINAIG, MAGUINDANAO	350x2=70	350,000	175,000
BRGY. BANABA, DATU ABDULAH SANGKI, MAGUINDANAO	25,506	128,000	64,000
BRGY. BANABA, DATU ABDULAH SANGKI, MAGUINDANAO	25,510	128,000	64,000
B5 PUROK ROSAL, BRGY. NEW ISABELA, TACURONG, SULTAN KUDARAT	600	525,000	262,500
BO. KALAWAG I, ISULAN, SULTAN KUDARAT	300	150,000	75,000
BO. LAGUILAYAN, ISULAN, SULTAN KUDARAT	2,420	484,000	242,000
2ND AVE. MISA DISTRICT BRGY.MAGUGPO, TAGUM, DAVAO	429	575,000	287,500
KALAMBAON VILLAGE BRGY. LA FORTUNA, TAGUM, DAVAO	400	140,000	70,000
2ND AVE. MISA DISTRICT BRGY. MAGUGPO, TAGUM, DAVAO	433	1,900,000	950,000
BRGY. APOKON, TAGUM, DAVAO	240	120,000	60,000
PUROK 5, BO. SAN VICENTE, PANABO, DAVAO	625	188,000	94,000
BO. SAN MIGUEL, TAGUM, DAVAO DEL NORTE	356	107,000	53,500
MATILLOSA ST. BRGY POBLACION , MONKAYO, DAVAO DEL NORTE	802	241,000	120,500
PUROK CAPAGNGAN, VISAYAN VILL. TAGUM, DAVAO DEL NORTE	600	360,000	180,000
JOSE UMALI ST. BRGY. POBLACION, MONKAYO, DAVAO DEL NORTE	798	240,000	120,000
BRGY.NEW VISAYAN VILLAGE, PANABO, DAVAO DEL NORTE	300	75,000	37,500
BRGY. NEW VISAYAN VILLAGE, PANABO, DAVAO DEL NORTE	300	75,000	37,500
BO. LOWER MABUHAY, BANSALAN, D. DEL SUR	3,162	127,000	63,500
CITY OF TAGUM,DAVAO DEL NORTE	400	140,000	70,000

Interested Buyers may call the following telephone nbrs. 527-82-11 to 19 locals 144,145, 146 and look for Joy, Myla or David. You may also inquire from our Offices in the above mentioned Areas.

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Interested direct buyers may contact:

Menchie Peña

Tel. Nos. **527-82-11 to 19** or **527-18-75**

***Real Estate Brokers issued Non-Exclusive Authority to Sell are requested to update/renew their Authority to sell and Lodge their buyers, if any.*

Celestial Media Services Inc is a provider of cinema as an advertising venue. We are looking for dynamic and dedicated individuals who can sustain the growth of the business, as well as be part of its expanding services.

Media Sales Executive

- Male or Female, 25-35 years old
- Holder of a communication or any business degree from a reputable school or University
- With a sales background of at least 2 years, media experience preferred but not an advantage
- With an established client base
- Aggressive, team player, and can work with minimum supervision
- Creative in developing campaigns to meet company targets and commitments.

Tours and Travel Coordinator

- Male or Female, 25-35 years old
- Holder of a Tourism or any Travel business related degree
- Can work with minimum supervision, resourceful and consistent in meeting deadlines

Please bring your resumé with picture to:
Suite 21-C, Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **COREBUILT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New IT-Export Service Firm in the field of Software Development on a Non-Pioneer Status** with project/plant site located at **24th floor, 88 Corporate Center, 141 Valero Street, Makati City.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

RUBY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

Industry & Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue Makati City, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 897-6682 Fax Nos.: (632) 895-3521 (IPG) (632) 895-3981 (IG) (632) 895-3978 (TSG) (632) 890-3051 (AD)
E-mail OSAC@boi.gov.ph
Homepage: http://www.boi.gov.ph
Cable address: INVESTBOARD P.O. Box 1872 Makati

(PDI–March 26, 2006)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 02-06-2006

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Supply & Delivery of various CCTV Equipment

LOT	QTY	TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET/UNIT	TOTAL AMOUNT	BIDDING FEE
1a	36	**Time and Date Titler Modules**, PCB V1300X TDT *Must be compatible to the existing Vicon matrix system*	20,300.00	730,800.00	800.00
1b	6	**Video Switch** Video Switch PCB, VICON V6610S *Must be compatible to the existing Vicon matrix system*	83,000.00	498,000.00	
2	20	**PTZ CAMERA** **Indoor** ¼" CCD, Color Dome Camera, NTSC Format, 470 TVL High Resolution or better, Maximum black and white illumination of 0.05 lux and minimum illumination of 0.01 lux for picture, Variable Focal 4-88MM) or better, 22X Optical Zoom and 8x Digital Zoom or better, Auto Iris, Auto/Manual Shutter Speed, Variable Speed Pan/Tilt, 360 Degrees Continuous Rotation, Programmable Presets, AGC & BLC, Ceiling and Pendant Mount Enclosure, Tinted Gold Dome (Lower) 7" or lower, Adaptable 220 VAC/60HZ Input Power, Indoor type *Must be compatible to the existing Vicon system*	117,480.00	2,349,600.00	1,174.80
3	63	**CCTV MONITOR** **(10" COLOR)** 700 TVL Minimum, Color and 10", High Resolution, NTSC, 2 Channel (S) Video In/Out Terminating, Universal Input Power, Metal Casing, 220 VAC, 60Hz	23,000.00	1,449,000.00	800.00
4	30	**HIGH-END FIXED CAMERA** 1/3" CCD, Color Dome Camera, 470 TVL High Resolution or better, Maximum Color Illumination of 1.5 lux or lower, Manual Iris, Variable Focal (3.5-8MM) or better with manual focus, AGC & BLC, Ceiling Mount Tinted Gold Dome (Lower) 7" or lower, Adaptable 220 VAC/60HZ Input Power.	30,000.00	900,000.00	700.00
5	7	**VIDEO DISTRIBUTION AMPLIFIER** 16 Video Input x 64 Video Output, Input Voltage=12 VAC/15VDC Adaptable to 110 to 220 VAC, 60Hz, Video Input/Output Impedance: 75 Ohms, 16MHZ, Bandwidth, Video Input: 1.5 MVPP, Video Output: 1.5 VPP, Rack Mount, Standard Dimension: 3.5"x1.5"x19", High End	40,000.00	280,000.00	600.00
6	22	**QUAD MULTIFLEXER (DUPLEX)** 4 Video Input 1 VPP/75 Ohms with looping Output, 1 Main Monitor Output, 1 Call Monitor Output, 1 SVideo VCR Output 1 VPP/75 ohms. High Resoulution 720x480 fixel or Higher, 60 FPS, Programmable Switching Mode, RS232 Control Signal, NTSC, 120-220 VAC, 60Hz Input Power	15,000.00	330,000.00	600.00
7	3	**TIME AND DATE TITLER GENERATOR** **(STAND ALONE TYPE)** Stand Alone type Time and Date Titler Generator, 16 Camera Input, 16 Output, RS 422 Serial Input/Output Port for receiving GPS Time and Date information, configurable in a Master/Slave Connection using either Daisy Chain or Homerun connection, Autovolt 120-220 VAC, 60 Hz Input Power, High end	96,000.00	288,000.00	600.00
			TOTAL AMOUNT	**6,825,400.00**	

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel No.: 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	March 17, 2006 - April 10, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	March 28, 2006 (2pm)
3. Submission of Bids	April 11, 2006 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	April, 11, 2006 (2 pm onwards)

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Flr. PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee stated above. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, wihout thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO**
Chairperson, BAC 3

(PDI–March 19 & 26, 2006)

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0922-5624693

DAVAO: *Davao City*
(82) 221-2488
0922-5752963

Please bring copy of your Resume and School or PRC Credentials

INVITATION TO BID

The Bank will foreclose and auction the following:

Property Location and Description	*Area (sq.ms.)*
Makati City: Vacant lot located along M. Santillan St., Barangay Arnaiz) (Pio del Pilar) North, Makati City	329
Bulacan: Two (2) parcels of land located at No. 331 Balagtas-Bustos Provincial Rd., Mataas na Sampalok, Brgy. Bulihan, Plaridel, Bulacan	4,536
Improvements: 1) A one-storey production building 2) A one-storey canteen/maintenance building 3) A three (3) – two-storey building 4) A two-storey guard house/barracks building	2,686 (aggregate)
Cavite: 3 contiguous lots located along the Provincial Rd., Barangay Alulod, Indang, Cavite	58,338 (aggregate)

Brokers Welcome
For particulars, please call 811-5807 to 14
Look for Gee / Cirila / Dannie

(PDI March 12 19 & 26, 2006)

QATAR

A Prospective Foreign Principal
EAST DRAGON CONSTRUCTION L.L.C.
IS URGENTLY NEEDING:

Safety Engr, Quantity Surveyor, QA/QC Engr, Civil Engr
Male, 25-40 years old, College Graduate, Licensed or with 2-5 years equivalent experience local or abroad, Salary US$1,200.

DUBAI

A Prospective Foreign Principal
EAST DRAGON MARBLE AND GRANITE L.L.C.
IS URGENTLY NEEDING:

Civil Engr, Civil Foreman/Supervisor, Mechanical Engr/Foreman, Draftsman, CAD Optr, Chemical Engr, Computer Optr, Document/Material Controller Male, Col Graduate 3-5 yrs related working experience, 25-45 yrs old, Computer Literate, Familiar w/ Maintenance & Construction Operation

Mason, Carpenter, Painter, Plumber, Scaffolder, Welder (Tig, Pipe, Plate), Pipe Fitter, Fabricator, Iron worker, Millwright, Bulldozer Operator, Tower Crane Optr, Forklift Optr, Heavy Equipment Optr, Mobile Crane Optr, H.E. Driver, Trailer Driver, Construction Helper: Male, At least High School Graduate, with strong built, Hard working, At least 165 cm in height, 60 kgs in weight, below 37 yrs old

TAIWAN

HIWIN TECH. CORP. (Reg. No. 10084110)
KINGPAK TECH. INC. (Reg. No. 10088273)

OPERATORS: Male 20-29 yrs, at least 165 cm, married. Female 20-27 yrs old, at least 155 cm at least College Level or Vocational Graduate of Electronics/ME/COE, OR W/ experience in Electronics / Semiconductor / Lathe / CNC Factory
Initial interview Daily Employer's interview 30 march 2006

SALARY : NT$15,840 / mo + O.T. Pay.

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VP Noli vows strong performance on housing

RECORD-BREAKING performances in housing finance and shelter security provision, plus a high level of confidence from banks and private builders made 2005 a banner year for the housing sector, a development which government vows to continue this year.

This was the substance of Vice President Noli "Kabayan" De Castro's report before a gathering of real estate professionals on Thursday for the 21st Oath Taking Ceremony of the Realty Service Council of the Philippines (RESCOP).

De Castro said that despite economic and political difficulties last year, exceptional performances in key areas proved the housing sector to be stronger and more responsive to the country's development goals.

"We completed one of the biggest shelter security projects for informal settlers with the relocation of 19,383 families that used to live along the North Rail right-of-way from Kalookan to Malolos, Bulacan.

This was accomplished in only ten months, and the families are now living in the in-town, in-city relocation sites known as the Northville Communities," he said.

He reported that the Northville communities are continuously being improved with the addition of necessary facilities and services through the help of the government and other stakeholders.

The government also established a record in shelter finance for both the formal and informal sectors.

The Community Mortgage Program (CMP) lent a total of P720 million to various urban poor community associations, "the highest loan assistance granted in the 17-year history of the CMP, which benefited 14,000 families."

For the formal sector, the Pag-IBIG Fund released a total of P14.39 billion in end-user housing loans, the highest such disbursement in 25 years, even as the Fund posted a record net income of P7.4 billion.

The Vice President also stated that the Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) has been constantly increasing its guaranty enrollments, averaging P17 billion annually in the last five years from less than P7 billion before 2000.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – Metro Manila
DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Tala, Caloocan City
Telefax: 962-82-09 / Tel. 962-98-84

March 22, 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital invites responsible and duly accredited suppliers from DOH/CHD-NCR to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following items.

- A. **FOODSTUFFS**
- B. **ANGLE BAR / MS PLATES**
- C. **INFECTIOUS CONTROL SUPPLIES**

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES:

Issuance of Bid Documents : April 6, 2006 (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
Pre-Bid Conference : Item A-C April 5, 2006 (1:00 p.m.)
Checking of Eligibility Requirements : April 7-17, 2006 (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Submission and Opening of Bids
ITEMS : A. April 19, 2006 (1:00 a.m.)
B. April 19, 2006 (10:00 a.m.)
C. April 19, 2006 (11:00 a.m.)

Prospective bidders may secure-bid proposal form from the BAC Secretariat, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

All activities shall be held at the Training room, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, Tala, Caloocan City, unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of a certified check, manager's check, or GSIS bond in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid. The Approved Budget Cost is stated on the bid documents.

For further inquiries, interested bidders may contact the BAC Secretariat or call Telephone No. 962-9884 or 962-9886.

Dr. JNRMH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to notice of award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidders of the grounds for the hospital's action.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO SA. JAVILLONAR, MD, MHA
Chief of Sanitarium III

(PDI – March 26 & April 2, 2006)

[illegible]

HEAD OFFICE: 897-8868 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax) • **CUBAO:** 912-9906 to 11 (Aurora) • **MAKATI:** 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370 • **KALAW:** 526-0213; 527-3342 • **MEGAMALL:** 635-0219; 635-0220

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- M. Adriatico St. Malate Lot 1645m² Negotiable Between Quirin Ave / Remedios Circle

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- District 1 Chino Roces (Pasong Tamo) cor lot 3700m² Negotiable Near Don Bosco

PARAÑAQUE
- SLEX East Service Rd. cor lot 2902m² vacant Negotiable

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- National Hi-way Two (2) Vacant Lots 19881 / 17608m² Frontage 101 / 115M Negotiable Between Rotonda / Lourdes Church

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is Given That the Estate of the late FELIPE D. GIRON JR. Has been Setteled by his heirs under a deed of EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT with Renunciation of Rights as Per Doc 43 Page 9 Book 13 Series of 2006 in the Notarial Registry of ERNESTO MACALINO of Quezon City (PDI Mar. 26 & Apr. 2 & 9 ,2006)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE JESUS GRUTA LAREZA HAS BEEN SETTLED AMONG THE HEIRS UNDER A DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH QUIT CLAIM DOC. NO. 80, PAGE NO. 16, BOOK NO. VI, SERIES OF 2006 IN THE NOTARIAL REGISTRY OF ATTY. ARMANDO G. QUINTO OF QUEZON CITY (PDI-MARCH 12, 19, 26, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Esnar A. Galdula covered by the TCT No. T-34.218(M) was extrajudicially partitioned among his heirs with waiver / donation subscribed before Atty. Rafael B. Madrid a Notary Public in Sta. Maria, Bulacan under Doc. 497, Page 100, Book IV, Series of 2006 (PDI-March 26, April 2, 9, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Lourdes C. Santos was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 181, Page No. 37, Book No. 10, Series of 2005 before Atty. Benigno M. Puno, Notary Public for City of Pasig (PDI-March 9, 26, April 2, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the state of the late ANASTACIO O. OBILLE was adjudicated to his surviving wife only heir DEMETRIA OBILLE by means of Public Documents executed on March 7, 2006 and ratified before Atty. E.F. Facturan, Notary Public for & in Taguig City & entered into his Notarial register as per Doc#50 Page#10 Book#XII Series of 2003. (PDI-March 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late Gerardo C. Aguilar has been extrajudicially settled by his heir as per Doc#31, Page#7, Book#1 Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Jane M. Lacandazo. (PDI - March 26 & April 2 & 9, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the following PSBank stock certificate no. 000022067, 000039275, 000040189, 000042862, 000042863, 000043877 issued to Natividad Dugtong were declared lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI- March 5, 12 & 26, 2006)

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MILAGROS SANCHO KANAPI

Widow of **Jose Kanapi, Sr.**

Joined her Creator last March 24, 2006
in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

Her loving children **Girlee & Dick Ng, Chit & Gerry Cabrejas, Nini & Bing Capati, Pichy & Domingo Ngo, Pepot & Tess Kanapi, Bobby & Cindee Kanapi, Mila & Dennis O'Conner, Mario** and **Bopeep Kanapi**, grandchildren, great grandchildren and relatives request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

The Funeral Mass will be on March 28, 2006 at the Tuguegarao Cathedral. Interment will follow at the Sanctuary of Peace in Tuguegarao City.

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven...." Ecclesiastes 3:11

Miguel Renato Unson Y Locsin

Peacefully joined the Lord on March 24, 2006 at the age of 87.

His wife **Daisy Ochoa**; children **Miguel Ramon, Ramon Carlos** and **Delia Cecilia**; son-in-law **Chuck Heikkenen** and grandchildren **Maria Teresa** and **Natasha** request their friends to join them in prayers.

His remains will lie in state at the Don Bosco Chapels in Makati on March 25 and 26.

ANDRES MIRANDA RAMILO

was called home to his Maker on 22 March 2006 at the age of 82.

His loving wife **Josefina (Diding) Quisumbing**; his children **Joanne & Dani Cantiller, Bong & Diday Fernan**, and **Ling**; his grandchildren **Powie, Kara, Bing, Andres II**, and **Adie** request your prayers for his eternal rest with the Lord.

His remains lie in state at Chapel J, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 28 March 2006, at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the Administration Chapel.

"My soul, be at rest in God alone from whom comes my hope." Psalm 62:6

CAPT. TEOFILO TUMACAY CALIMAG, JR.

Retired Philippine Airlines Boeing 747-400 Captain of Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 22, 2006.

His bereaved wife **Iderlina**;
children **Jerry & Elaine, Peter, Jojo & Jean**;
grandchildren **Ma. Katrina, Anna Patricia, Kevin Matthew, Sofia Andrea & Niccolo Angelo**;
relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Parish, Mt. Carmel Chapel, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., New Manila, Quezon City.**

Interment will be on **Tuesday, March 28, 2006**, at the **Loyola Memorial Park (Marikina City)** after the **11 a.m. Mass** at the **Mount Carmel Church.**

"I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the father
except through me."
John 14:6

Our Dearly Beloved Mother

TERESITA PELLICER vda. de BARRETTO

(July 8, 1925 - March 24, 2006)

Loving wife of Col. Renato L. Barretto (†)
peacefully joined our Lord
on March 24, 2006 at the age of 80.

She is survived by her children **Marilita, Rene & Soles, Cita & Edee, Lully & Henry, Bobby & Yvonne, Lelet & Manolet, Rick**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains lie at the St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang. Funeral Mass on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

The Missionary Benedictine Sisters
St. Scholastica's Priory, Manila

announce the death of

Sister M. Elisabeth Sarinas, OSB

at St. Benedict's Home, Marikina
on March 24, 2006 at the age of 83.

She is survived by her brother, **Faustino**, and her sister, **Teresita**.

Her remains lie in state at St. Scholastica's Chapel, Manila.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque, on March 28, 2006, Tuesday, after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
● Copy of Death Certificate ● Any identification document (I.D.)

I am
the way,
the truth
and the
life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.

John 14:6

CLASSIFIEDS

PMAP, JRU partner for human resource planning and acquisition program

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Development Center (HRMDC) of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) partners with Jose Rizal University in holding a certificate course in Human Resource Planning and Acquisition to introduce the value of manpower planning as a strategic business tool that goes beyond mere forecasting of numbers; and recruitment and selection as more than just hiring people.

PMAP and the faculty of Jose Rizal University designed the Certificate in Human Resource Planning and Acquisition (CHRPA) course, which will run for eight Saturdays starting May 20 to July 8, 2006 at the Graduate School Building of Jose Rizal University in Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

The CHRPA course is part of PMAP's Diploma in Human Resource Management (DHRM) program. Completion of five PMAP certificate courses merits a post-graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management. The other certificate courses are Certificate in Human Resource Development (formerly Training and Development), Certificate in Organization Development, Certificate in Labor Relations, and Certificate in Compensation Management (formerly Compensation Administration).

For other information, PMAP may be contacted thru telephone numbers 726-1532/81/88.

All about VAT workshop set

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE Reformed VAT and how it will affect your business. Don't miss this event (last for 2006) slated on March 31, 1-5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas. The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Prof. Emy Maestro, CPA and Founding Chairman of Auditor ng Bayan. He has written 14 books on Accounting and Auditing. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

CLASSIFIEDS

RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province : LAGUNA
City / Municipality : CALAMBA CITY

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that ROBERT JAIME BANATIN has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from PAULINA BERNEDETTE to PAULLA BERNEDETTE in the birth certificate of PAULINA BERNEDETTE BANATIN who was born on MARCH 10, 2003 at CALAMBA, LAGUNA and whose parents are ROBERT JAIME BANATIN and LORENA PUA.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than 3 APRIL 2006.

(Sgd.) MILAGROS B. PINION
City Civil Registrar

(PDI—March 26, 2006)

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FOR MUDSLIDE VICTIMS
Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas and Undersecretary Danilo P. Cruz (4th and 5th from left) hold the symbolic check representing the cash, rice and other donations for the mudslide victims in Leyte from the Filipino Association for Mariners Employment, Inc. (FAME). Capt. Reynaldo Casakeo and Josie Francisco of FAME turn-over the donations in behalf of the association's members and the Filipino seafarers.

PMAP believes there is bright future in industry for new grads

ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH year founding anniversary, the **Personnel Management Association of the Philippines** joins industry and government in adopting advocacies that seek to provide an environment where our young people can develop and realize their potentials.

As the gatekeepers and recruitment experts in their organizations, PMAP members can attest to the fact that there are many opportunities for qualified young people in industry. By the year 2010, the Cyberservices sector alone is projected to provide one million jobs in customer care, software development, back office operation , animation, and medical/data transcription. A survey conducted among PMAP members in February-March this year also suggests that companies have difficulty hiring for entry level positions in accounting and finance, sales (specially for pharmaceutical and consumer companies), certain IT and engineering positions, and customer service.

The PMAP survey suggests that the " mismatch" largely results from candidates' inability to make the grade in "impact and confidence " and "English oral communication (cited by 40% of respondents), resulting in failure to make it past the initial screening interview , in addition to the lack of other competencies required by the job(cited by 20%). An earlier study conducted by PMAP in 1994 – long before the call centers came to the Philippines- yielded the same result. PMAP had long pointed out to the government that lack of English skills is not only a barrier to entry; it also effectively reduces the chances of employees to go up the organizational ladder because English communication skills are important competencies for managerial positions.

PMAP therefore advocates the improvement of English literacy at the primary school level , where language is best learned and in public schools where the bulk of our student population is.

Preliminary findings from the survey also suggest that HR practitioners believe that new entrants to the workforce should improve in analytical thinking, and initiative.

NFA focuses on food security programs

THE NATIONAL Food Authority continues to focus its resources on food security by maintaining a safe rice stock inventory level and stabilizing farm gate and market prices for both palay and rice.

As of March 22, the NFA's rice inventory of 498,312 metric tons or 9.9 million bags is sufficient to last for 17 days based on the country's 29,900 MT daily rice requirement. NFA stocks constitute 17 percent of the country's rice inventory while commercial and household stocks held the balance.

The NFA maintaining active palay buying operations helped stabilize palay price at an average of P11.08 per kg nationwide. NFA's total palay procurement from January todate has reached 77,670 bags.

NFA administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said the agency's continuous presence in the market with a high support price and other incentives has prodded private traders to increase their buying prices in order to cover the bulk of farmers' palay produce.

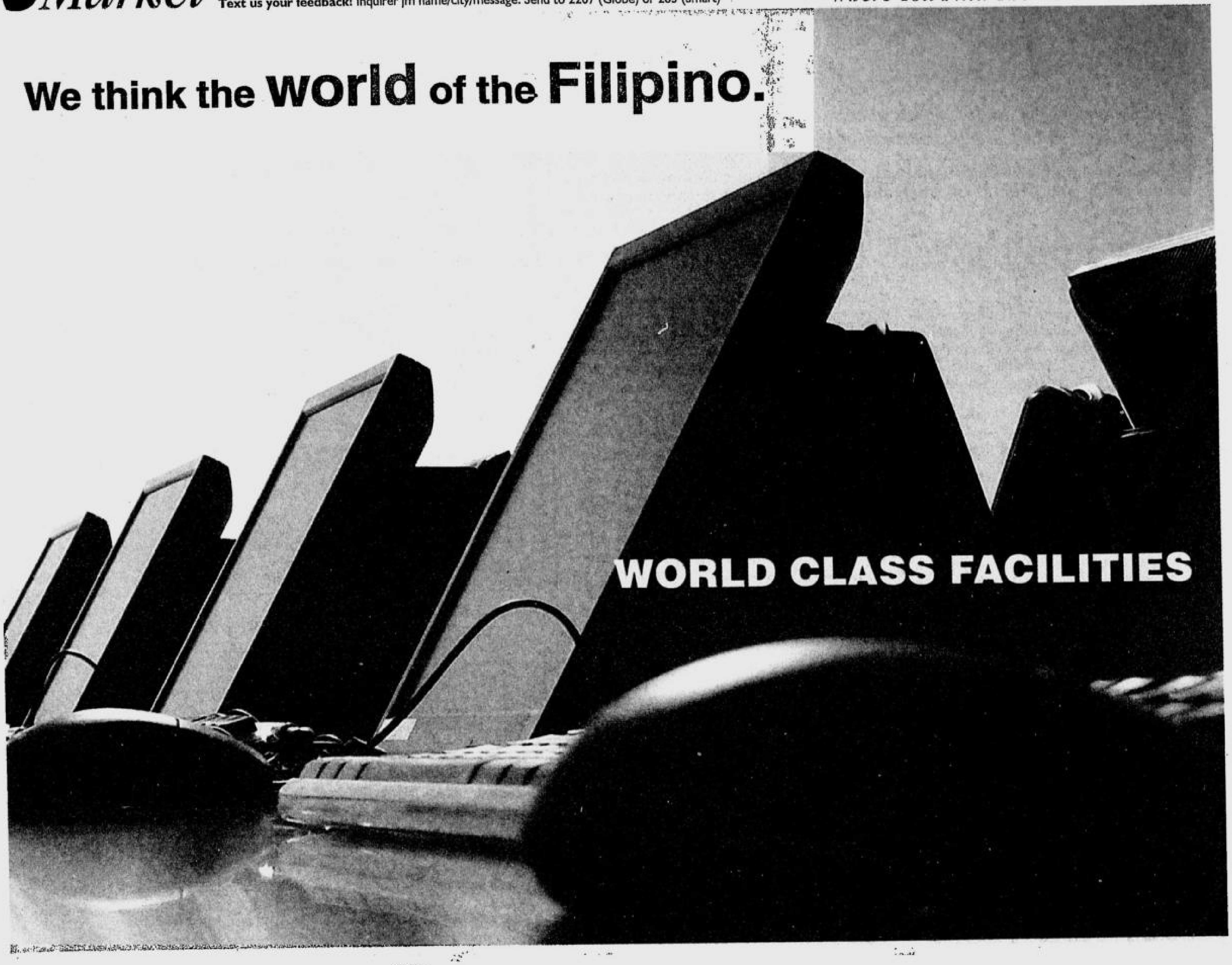
Meanwhile, through the agency's extensive rice distribution network, the NFA was able to cushion the impact of the natural calamities that had hit some northern and southern provinces.

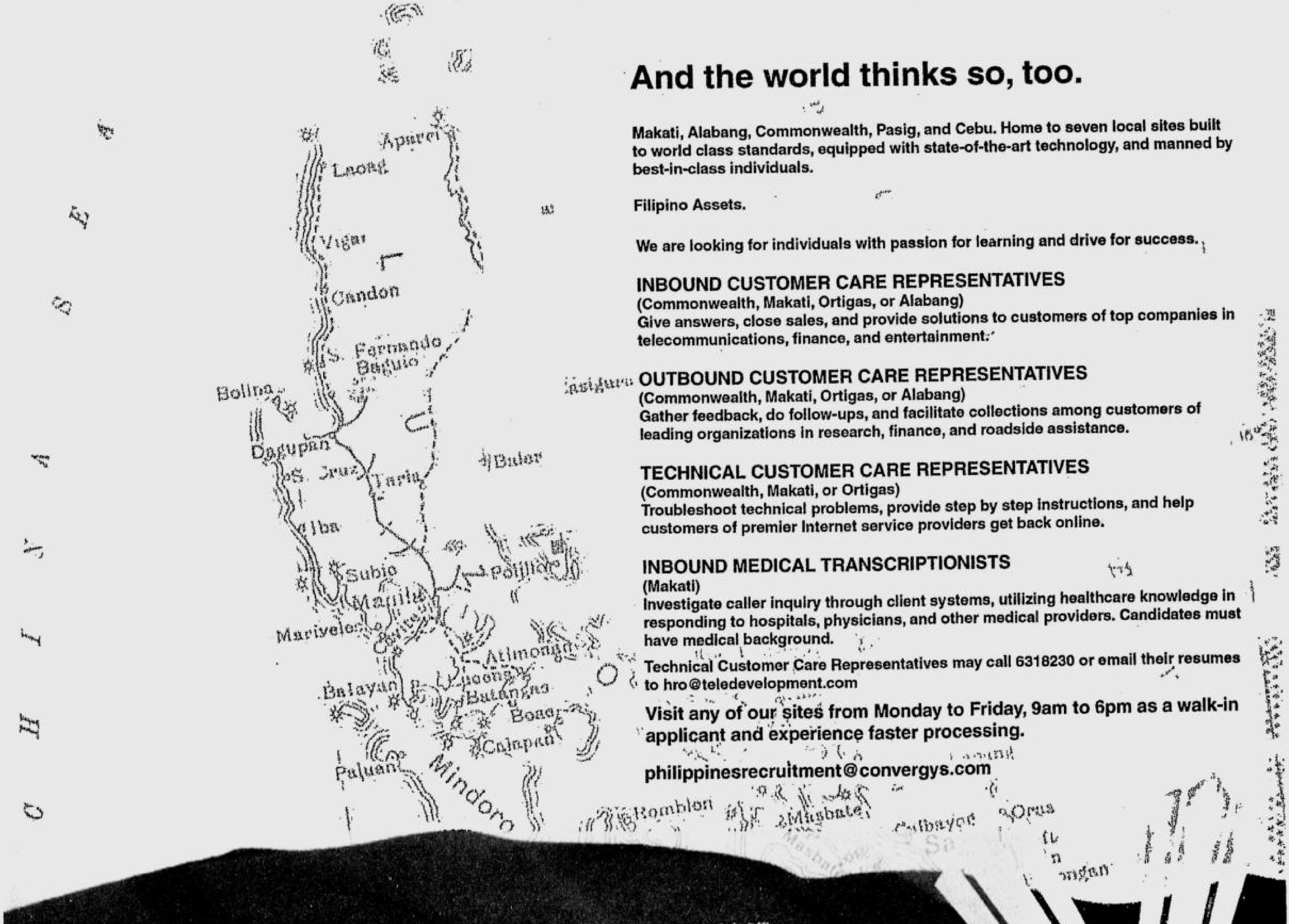
The NFA distributed a total of 1.3 million bags of rice in January, 1.6 million bags for February surpassing the month's distribution target at 105 percent. Tan informed that even if summer harvest has just started, NFA's exceeding 100 percent of its targeted distribution volume last month manifested the consumers' increasing preference for the good quality but low-priced government rice.

The agency also continued to supply P16 per kg rice to depressed areas both in rural and urban communities nationwide. This was achieved through the active operation of the NFA's 2,601 Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke outlets and the 250 Tindahan ni Pangulong Gloria rolling stores.

For more info send inquiries via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

We think the world of the Filipino.





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Gather feedback, do follow-ups, and facilitate collections among customers of leading organizations in research, finance, and roadside assistance.

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We offer an attractive compensation and benefits packages. Additional rewards and incentives are given to top performing agents. Applicants with resume, NBI Clearance, TIN and SSS number will be prioritized.

For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2308 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text.

CONVERGYS
Outthinking Outdoing

Wyeth

Leading the Way to a Healthier World

If challenges, fun, travel and excellence excite you, then these job opportunities in the world of ethical and consumer sales await you!!

We are a leading global nutritional and pharmaceutical company and offer compensation and benefits package above industry level to the successful candidates.

Territory Manager (CODE: TM)
(Ilocos, Nueva Ecija, Batangas & GMA)

Function:
Creates demand for Wyeth Nutritional and Pharmaceutical products, builds customer goodwill and produces maximum profitable sales, which may be reasonably achieved in assigned territory through complete and aggressive coverage.

Qualifications:

- ☐ Candidates must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Business or its equivalent from top universities/colleges
- ☐ Results-driven, ambitious and action-oriented; very presentable and dignified in appearance; has good moral character
- ☐ Required skills: Excellent oral and written communications skills; advanced driving skills; computer proficiency
- ☐ Must be willing to be assigned anywhere in the country

Key Account Manager (CODE: KAM)

Function:
Manages the total businesses of the accounts and the area assigned. Responsible for the overall achievement of the sales, financial goals and marketing program. Conceptualizes, develops and implements key business building activities, plans and programs for the accounts and areas to achieve the key results areas in volume, distribution, merchandising, Accounts Receivables Management, return and trade goodwill.

Qualifications:

- ☐ Candidates must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Business or its equivalent from top universities/colleges
- ☐ With 2 to 3 years experience in trade sales of a progressive consumer company
- ☐ Very presentable and dignified in appearance; with excellent oral and written communication skills; advanced driving skills; computer proficiency
- ☐ Must be willing to be assigned anywhere in the country

Qualified applicants are requested to send their updated resumé to the given postal/email address below not later than **March 31, 2006:**

Makati office:

HRD Department
Wyeth Philippines, Inc.
2236 Chino Roces Ave.
1231 Makati City
Code:_________

Email address:
recruitment@wyeth.com

Previous applicants need not apply. We will only reply to qualified applicants.

URGENTLY NEEDED

SALES & MARKETING OFFICERS (3)

Our client is one of the leading floral design company in the country. They offer above average compensation package, excellent training, career advancement, stability, and growth. They are seeking suitably qualified and career-minded individuals that are:

- ➢ Male/Female, single 21-30 years old, College graduate.
- ➢ With 2 years experience in Sales and Account Management.
- ➢ Preferably graduate of **Interior Design, Mass Communication, Fine Arts, Architecture or any course related to Arts.**
- ➢ Articulate with pleasing personality and has managerial skills.
- ➢ Must be willing to work long hours.
- ➢ **Fresh graduates from UP, La Salle, Ateneo, UST and other exclusive schools are also welcome to apply.**

Those earning less than 20,000 a month need not apply.

Applicants are required to apply in person at **Suite 1602 CITYLAND 10, TOWER 1, H.V. De La Costa St., Makati City on March 27, 28 & 30 (Mon., Tue. & Thur.) from 1-5 pm only and bring resumé with picture, copy of transcript and certificates. For inquiry, call 751-6730.**

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- *French, Mandarin, Filipino*
- *Asian / World / Philippine History*
- *Psychology & Religion*
- *Economics*

►Submit your Resume (w/ 2x2 picture), Diploma and Transcript of Records to Ms. Marie Cobeng, Pasig Blvd. cor. Rosemarie Lane, Pasig City or email: **hrd@reedleyschool.com**

Competitive Salary Package plus Travel Benefits await highly qualified applicants.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING : ALABANG AND MAKATI OFFICE

JUNIOR LAWYER/UNDERBAR

- ➢ Male/Female
- ➢ Graduate of any reputable school.
- ➢ Highly motivated, with excellent communication skills, can work under pressure with minimum supervision and with very high aptitude.

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- ➢ Female, single, not more than 28 years old.
- ➢ Accounting graduate, CPA is preferable.
- ➢ Works with initiative and minimum supervision.
- ➢ Responsible, honest, thorough and neat.

RECEPTIONIST

- ➢ Female, not more than 28 years old.
- ➢ Pleasing personality, resourceful, with initiative.
- ➢ Excellent communication skills, fluent in English.
- ➢ College graduate and computer literate.

MESSENGER

- ➢ Male, single, not more than 28 years old.
- ➢ College graduate with work experience in law firm preferable.
- ➢ Responsible, honest, thorough and neat.

TYPIST/ENCODER

- ➢ Male or Female, not more than 28 years old.
- ➢ Computer literate, expert in MS Office.
- ➢ Willing to work long hours.

ADMIN ASSISTANT

- ➢ Female, single, not more than 28 years old, with pleasing personality.
- ➢ Proficient in written and oral communication.
- ➢ Accounting background is preferable.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resume with recent 2X2 photo to: 4th Floor, ACT Tower, 135 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Metro Manila, addressed to **Ms. Juliet R. Espinosa**

ICHEMEX

WE ARE A RAPIDLY EXPANDING 100% FILIPINO HEALTHCARE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY AND WE NEED HIGHLY QUALIFIED PEOPLE FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

Finance & Admin Manager
Production Manager
Quality Control Supervisor

Qualifications:

- ➢ Experienced/preferably bet. 35-45 years old.
- ➢ MBA background is a definite advantage.
- ➢ Work experience with a multinational company preferred.

We offer competitive salaries and fringe benefits which includes performance base incentives.

Those who possess the necessary qualifications and experience may apply in person with PHOTO from Wednesday – Friday; 8:00 – 12:00 nn or e-mail your Resume/Curriculum Vitae at:

ichemexlab@pacbell.net

Awardee of **"THE 1st DOH RECOGNITION FOR GLOBAL MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE"** 2003

Aseana Holdings Inc.

Job Description

Positions Available:
1. Marketing Manager – Real Estate Operations
2. Administration Assistant

Business Unit: Aseana Holdings Inc.
Contact Person: Ms. Joy Bermudez / Ms. Esperanza Manlapaz
Contact No.: 885-74-88 to 89
Instructions: Interested applicants can send their resumés to the specified contact person at the 16 – O, Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City or send them via email to bcw@pldtdsl.net.

JOB SUMMARY:
The Marketing Manager's responsibilities are:

I. To Assist the Vice President in all Marketing, Advertising, Leasing and Selling activities of the Company's Real Estate Portfolio.
II. Review Sales and Lease Contract of prospective customers

Qualifications:

- With experience in marketing, particularly in Sales and Leasing of Real Estate Properties (preferably, a licensed Real Estate Broker)
- Graduate of any business related course
- Must Possess Excellent Communication and Organizational Skills
- Must be Computer literate
- Must be Customer and People oriented

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One of a kind opportunities for career-minded young professionals to join a progressive outsourcing firm that offers well-defined recruitment services to its local and multinational client corporations.

You would qualify for several openings specified if you are :

- Resourceful, results-oriented and self-confident
- With good oral and written communication skills.
- Recent college graduates who have had 1-2 years of actual work experience in Recruitment or Training.
- Fresh college graduates of top local universities and are driven to start your career in a developmental post.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH

- Partnering with seasoned Consultants to conduct process-oriented search and selection assignments.
- Key team contributor to develop and expand data bank of executive talents in the corporate world.

RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

- Primarily recruits and trains personnel for our new, exciting and non-traditional service provider.
- A post that calls for fieldwork within Metro Manila and surrounding provinces
- Committed to be of service to others
- Male candidates could have some edge.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

- Primarily to be assigned to reception area to receive clients and guests; handles documentation/ clerical support and general services tasks that keep the office running smoothly

Before April 14, 2006, either e-mail resumé to recruitment@executive-edge.com.ph or handcarry to 1704 Antel 2000 Corporate Centre, 121 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

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WEBFORGE

WEBFORGE PHILIPPINES, INC., is an Australian company engaged in the manufacture and distribution of high quality Industrial Gratings, Handrails and Drainage Products & Fences used in power plants, petrochemical and industrial facilities, as well as commercial and residential construction. **WEBFORGE** is located at the Light Industry and Science Park 1 in Cabuyao, Laguna and is offering excellent career opportunities for:

SALES EXECUTIVE

Responsible for generating sales in various sectors, i.e. Power, Petrochemical, Major Industrial, Commercial and Residential to achieve sales target.

- Licensed Mechanical/Civil Engineer, Male
- Minimum of 2 years experience in sales or marketing in the top 1000 company with exposure to building and construction industry.
- Excellent inter-personal communication skills
- High Level of Initiative and drive
- Flexible, resourceful and innovative

Submit resumé with latest photo & copy of official transcript of records to:

WEBFORGE PHILIPPINES, INC.
Main Avenue corner Hologram Street
Light Industry and Science Park 1 Cabuyao, Laguna

or send via e-mail to webphil@webforge.com.ph

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

VACANT POSITION

POSITION : **DIRECTOR IV (1 vacancy)**
PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT : ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT BUREAU
ITEM NUMBER : OSEC-DOEB-DIR4-5-2002
SALARY GRADE : 28

QUALIFICATION STANDARDS
EDUCATION : A GRADUATE OF GEOLOGY OR MINING ENGINEERING PREFERABLY WITH MASTERAL DEGREE
EXPERIENCE : 3 YEARS OF SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE
TRAINING : NONE REQUIRED
ELIGIBILITY : CAREER SERVICE EXECUTIVE ELIGIBILITY (CSEE)
CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE (CES)

All application letters and comprehensive resumés with passport size picture should be submitted to the Human Resource Management Division, Administrative Service, Department of Energy, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. For further inquiries, please call 840-1401 to 21 locs. 354/217 or through e-mail c/o ebalaoing@doe.gov.ph no later than 10 April 2006.

LAND equity

The LAMP2 is a multi-funded project with grant aid from the Australian Government for technical assistance, and World Bank loan to the Philippines Government. The grant funding for technical assistance was contracted to Land Equity International. For more information about the company please log-on to www.landequity.com and for the project information log-on to www.phil-lamp.org.

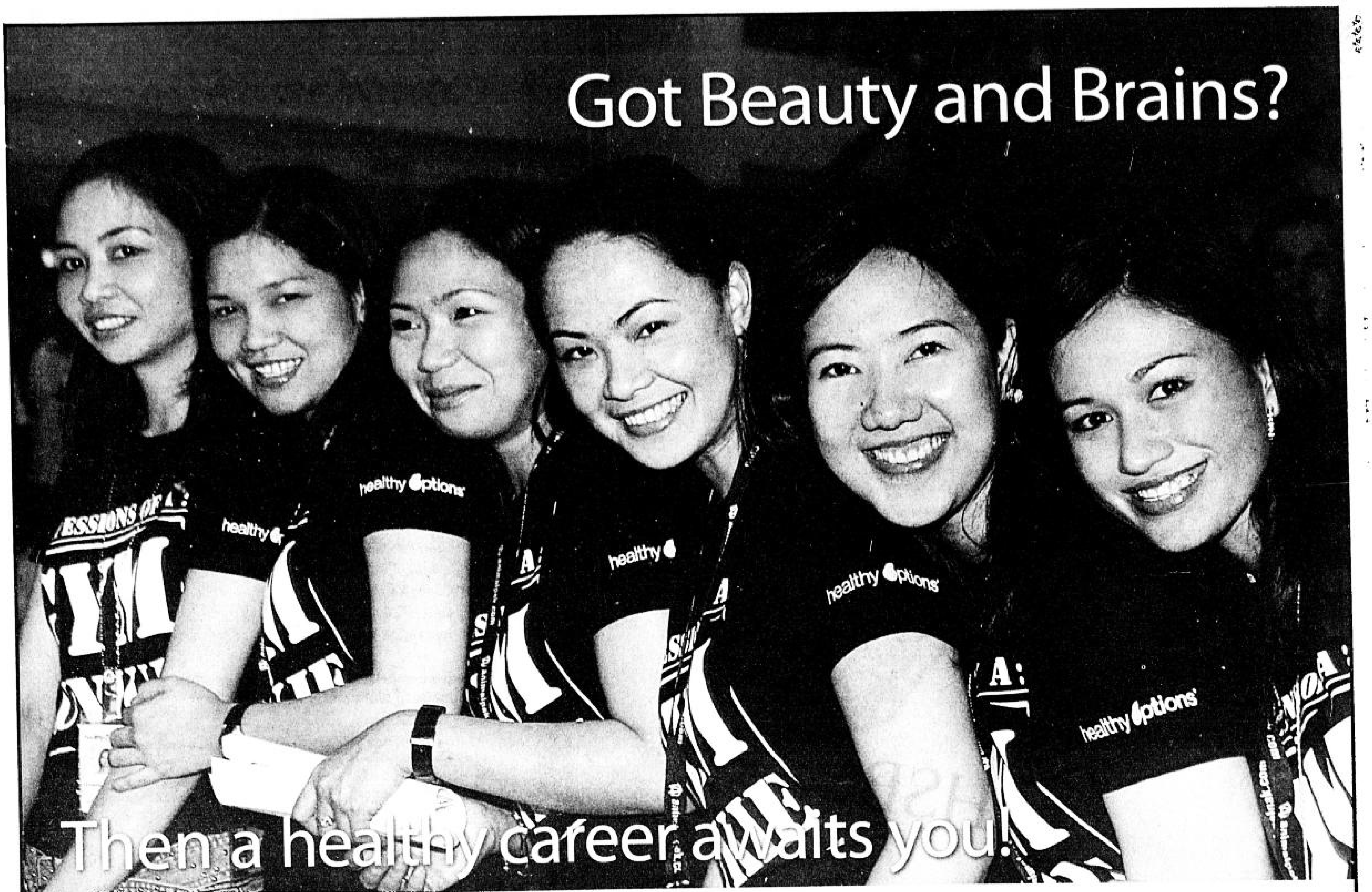
Policy Advocacy Adviser

(10 months)

Qualifications:

- Experience in policy advocacy, in the business sector and with professional associations is essential
- Appropriate tertiary qualifications
- Previous experience in land management sector an advantage
- Proficient in oral and written communications

Applicants must email their CV with cover letter to palamp@mindgate.net or fax to 9281176. Full terms of reference is available upon request (call Jinky at 920-6215).
Deadline of Submission: 5:00 p.m., Friday, 31 March 2006


Got Beauty and Brains?
Then a healthy career awaits you!
healthy Options

Healthy Options is a company with a unique character and philosophy that has set us decidedly apart from traditional supermarket chains. As the leading natural foods retailer in Asia, our mission is to provide excellent products and services to our customers. We fulfill our mission by supporting a culture of highly knowledgeable people who are empowered to make their own decisions, creating an environment where people are treated with respect. We also encourage you to have a life! We offer great benefits and working conditions.

If you're interested to become a **Customer Advisor (CA)** at *Healthy Options*, you must have the following qualifications:

1. In good health, non-smoker, smooth complexion and slim.
2. Graduate of any 4-year course but preferably in Nutrition, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Medical Sciences, HRM, and Tourism.
3. Must stand at least 5'3" tall without shoes; and not more than 28 years old.
4. Fluent in English; has good writing and presentation skills.
5. Work experience in retail sales preferable but not required.

Apply in person between 10AM to 1PM, Monday-Friday at **Level 1, Shangri-La Mall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City**. Bring your letter of application, together with your resume and 2x2 colored photo. **Attire : Short-sleeved blouse & skirt.** For successful applicants, we offer a starting monthly salary of P12,000 (inclusive of P2,000 *perfect monthly attendance bonus*). Additional compensation and generous benefits await those who will pass the probationary period.

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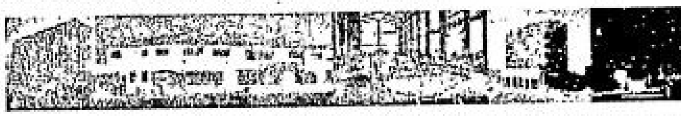
Our company is an ISO 9001:2000 Certified Engineering Design Consultancy and Construction Management Firm. For more than 23 years, ESCA has developed and expanded its services to meet the increasing demand of a wide range of clientele here and abroad. We take pride in taking care of our PEOPLE and using the latest TECHNOLOGY in delivering e-ENGINEERING SERVICES that are at par with the world's best.



BE A WORLD-CLASS ENGINEER! BE AN ESCA ENGINEER!
Set your CAREER on track!

If you have the drive to succeed, we want you to be a part of our team. Currently, we are in search for TOP CALIBER and PROACTIVE individuals to fill in the following positions:

CIVIL WORKS DESIGN MANAGER
Minimum of 8 years extensive experience
With Managerial\Supervisory experience
Excellent interpersonal skills

CIVIL WORKS DESIGNERS
With at least 2 years relevant experience
Good interpersonal skills
Can work with minimum supervision

General Qualifications (Civil Works candidates)
Registered Professional
Knowledgeable in AutoCAD and Land Development Desktop
Previous experience on.US projects an advantage

STRUCTURAL DESIGN ENGINEERS
Registered Professional
With at least 2 years relevant experience
Good interpersonal skills
Knowledgeable in STAAD Pro, ETABS and other
Knowledge in preparing steel detail\fabrication
Experience in the following areas an advantage
- Industrial facilities such as power plants, cement plants and refineries
- Precast concrete detailing

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
Registered M.E.
Minimum of 3 years relevant experience
Knowledge in HVAC & Fire Protection System design
Knowledge in quantity take-off, cost estimates, quality control and quality assurance procedures
Knowledge in AutoCAD and MS Office Applications
Ability to interpret MEPS working drawings
Well-versed in documentation, writing reports and correspondences
Willing to be assigned on project sites nationwide

CADD OPERATORS
BS Architecture or any engineering course graduate
With at least 2 years relevant experience
Proficient in the use of AutoCAD, Architectural Desktop, 3D Studio or any other engineering\architectural software
Experience on precast concrete detailing an advantage
Can work with minimum supervision

X STEEL OPERATORS
BS Architecture or Civil Engineering course grad
Experience in industrial facilities such as power and cement plants, refineries an advantage
Knowledge in preparing steel detail\fabrication drawings
Minimum of 3 months experience in using X Steel
Can work with minimum supervision

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT
Preferably Registered Civil Engineer
With at least 2 years relevant experience
Possesses extensive knowledge in business evaluation and project feasibility studies
Excellent oral and written communication skills
With deep sense of commitment and business acumen
Can work with minimum supervision
Willing to work on extended hours

ICT SPECIALIST
Graduate of any 4 year course
With at least 2 years relevant experience
Proficient in network architecture, trouble shooting and windows operating system
Knowledgeable in using Linux system
PHP programming a plus factor
Willing to extend long hours of work

If you believe you are the **ideal candidate**,
you may apply personally or send your updated resumé with application letter to

ESCA INCORPORATED
ENGINEERS • CONSULTANTS • PROJECT MANAGERS

The Human Resources Department
3rd Floor ATC Centre, 148 Katipunan Ave.,
St. Ignatius Village, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 4371218-19 \ 9139920 \ 9139879
Website: www.escaengineers.com
hrd@escaengineers.com

A world-class sports retail group carrying an Italian brand with markets nationwide would like to invite potential candidates to join the family that offers exciting packages and renumeration beyond par excellence.

Human Resources Manager
- female, 32 years old and above
- at least 3 years direct experience managing HR Dept
- with exposure and network on third party contracted manpower services
- expertise on training, salaries and benefits, industrial relations

Senior Accounts Payable
- female, single, not less than 28 years old
- at least 2 years experience handling payable accounts
- knowledge on govt mandated benefits reporting an advantage
- knowledge of accounting systems

Senior Internal Audit Manager
- male or female, not less than 32 years old
- at least 3 years experience on field and internal audit, retail industry
- computer literate
- excellent analytical skills
- general accountancy experience
- accurate in numerics

Executive Secretary
- female, single, not less than 28 years old
- smart appearance, corporate personality, fluent in English
- good in typing, with background in stenography
- can compose memorandums
- computer literate
- with at least 3 years working experience in executive office
- excellent organizational and time management skills
- good interpersonal skills

Boutique Supervisor
- male or female, at least 28 years old, preferably single
- pleasant personality, can speak fluent English
- college graduate of at least 4 yr course
- at least 2 years experience on similar capacity, same industry
- with exposure on cashiering and POS, inventory management
- impressive record of achieving targets

Warehouse Supervisor
- female, at least 30 years old
- at least 2 years direct experience supervising apparel or footwear warehousing
- have exposure on inbound and outbound, logistics, distribution, stock allocation, space management and utilization
- preferably industrial engineering graduate

Business Unit Manager / Retail Manager
- male or female, at least 32 years old
- at least 3 years significant experience as sales manager or similar capacity in the same industry
- good analytical skills
- ability to come up with sales strategies and plans
- with good exposure on store administration and inventory management
- excellent interpersonal skills
- good written and verbal communication skills
- excellent sales, planning and decision making skills
- exposure in merchandising is an advantage
- good knowledge of the retail footwear industry
- impressive record of achieving targets

Promodizer
- male or female, not more than 28 years old, single
- at least 5'2" for female, 5'5" for male
- at least 6 months experience in a similar industry
- pleasant personality
- graduate of at least 2 yr college course
- can speak understandable English

For interested parties, you may send your curriculum vitae with 2 x 2 passport size colored photo to:

The Executive Office
Isport Life, Inc.
21st Floor, 139 Corporate Center
Valero St., Salcedo Village
Makati City

- **PROGRAMMER**
- **WEB DEVELOPER**
- **WEB DESIGNER**

loriexml@yahoo.com
0919-361-6026

HIRING
ENGLISH TUTORS
- Must have good American accent
- Part-time 6-9 am; 7-11 pm
- High compensation

Apply: 2pm onwards
Unit D2 19/F Strata 100 Bldg.
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Tel. 914-4135

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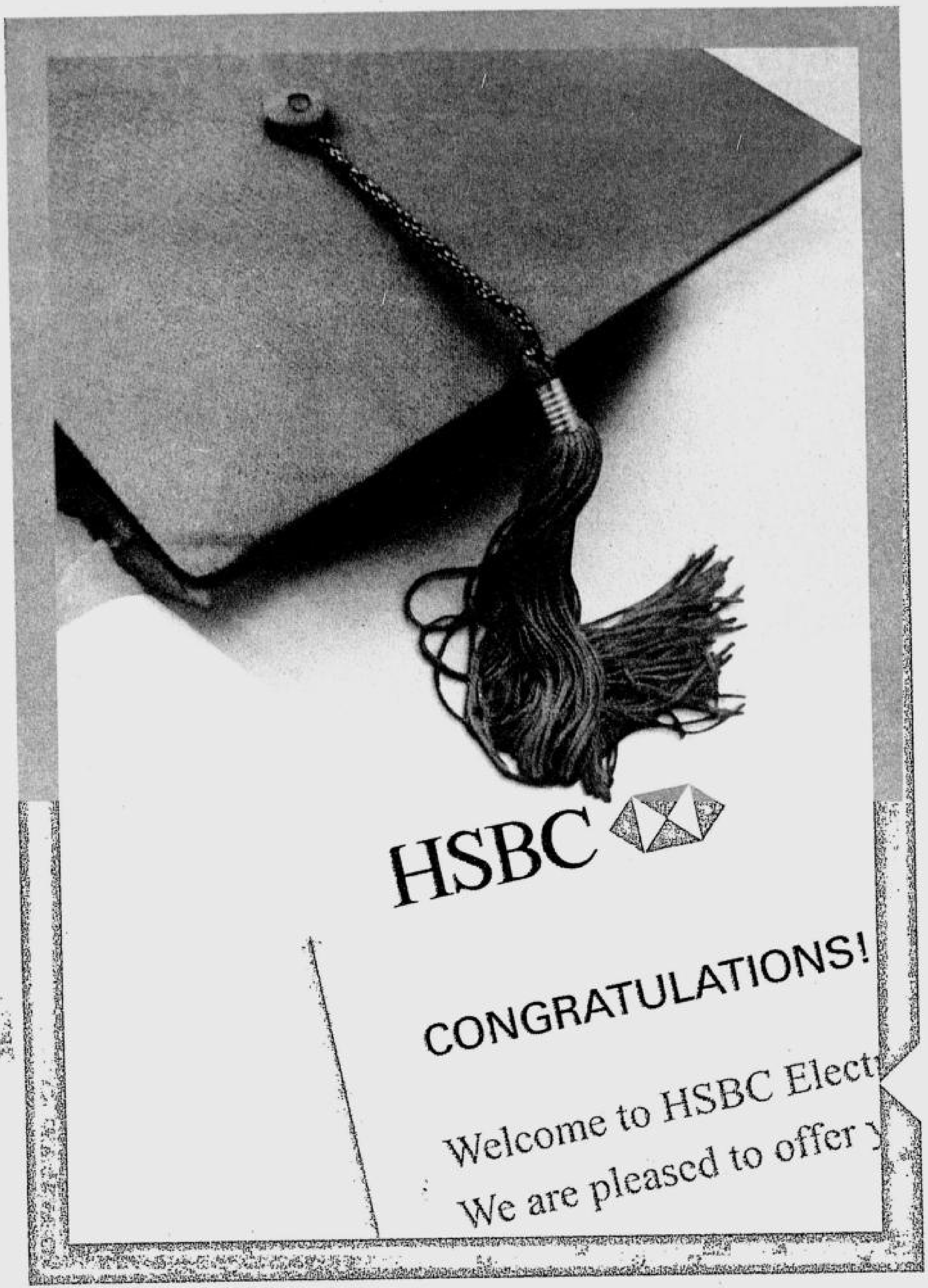
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer



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Cap your success with a career at HSBC.

We offer company stability, job security, competitive compensation, benefits and incentives, excellent career advancement opportunities, a fun environment, and the privilege of being part of a reputable, global organization.

If you're highly motivated and intent on pursuing a career in one of the fastest growing industries, come join our new and still expanding team.

We are accepting applications for the following positions

- Customer Care Associates and Sales Associates
- Spanish-speaking Care Associates and Team Leaders
- Chinese Readers and Cantonese Speakers
- Managers for Operations
- Collections Associates
- Workforce Analysts
- HR Associates
- Web and Flash Developers

We require excellent English language skills and the willingness to work shifts.

You may apply via e-mail to **servicecenterjobs@hsbc.com.ph** or personally visit any one of our two sites. We welcome you to our **Open House**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday to Friday at our Makati site and Monday to Saturday at our Alabang site for **one-day processing**. **Get a job offer the same day.**

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Alabang site:
5150 North Bridgeway corner Northgate Avenue, Northgate Cyberzone,
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1781

Makati site:
39th Floor PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street,
Makati City 1226

Walk-in applicants must bring a copy of their resume, one 2x2 picture, photocopies of their last two payslips and a valid ID.
HSBC is an equal opportunity employer.

HSBC

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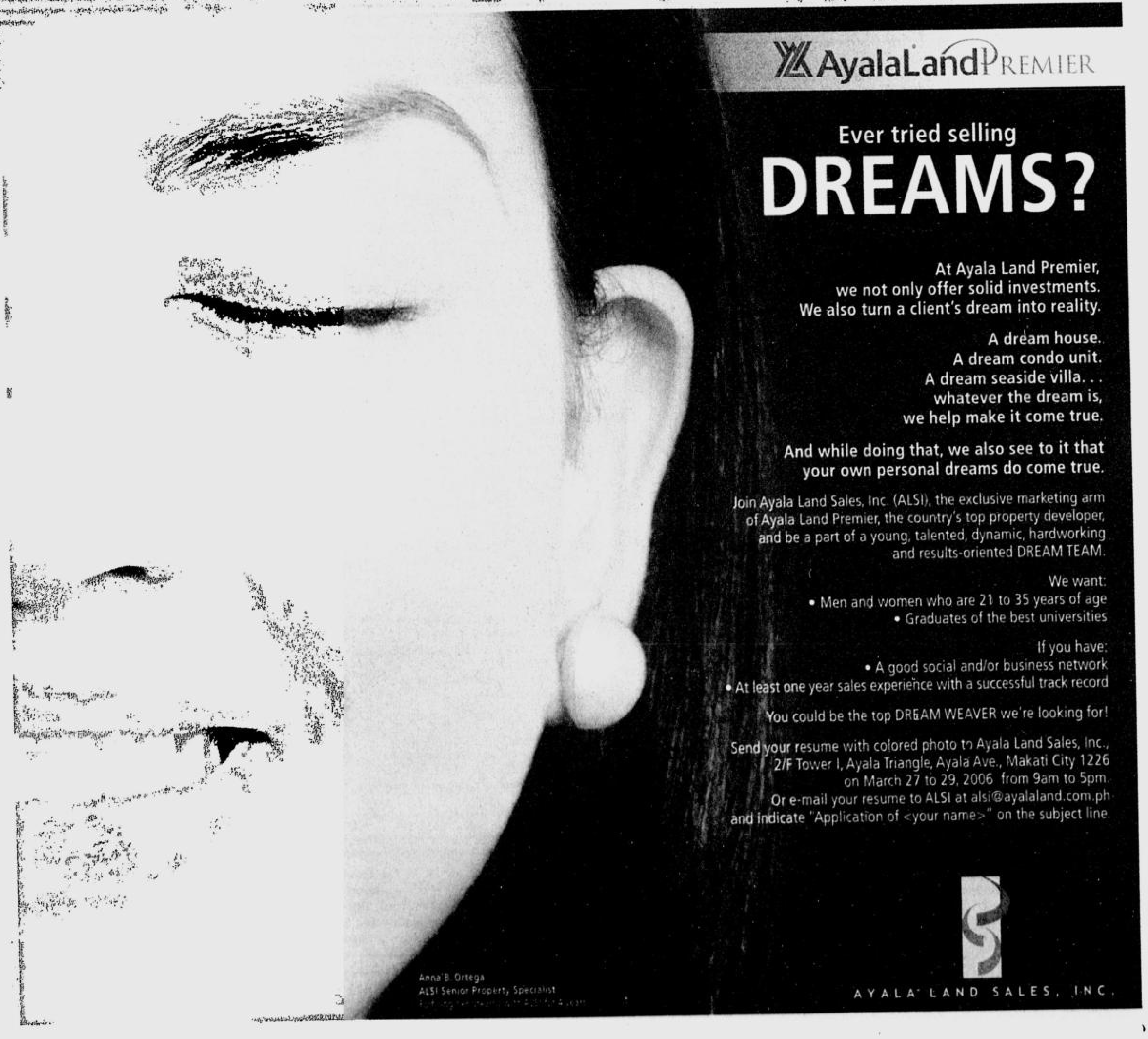
AyalaLandPremier



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DREAMS?

At Ayala Land Premier,
we not only offer solid investments.
We also turn a client's dream into reality.

A dream house.
A dream condo unit.
A dream seaside villa. . .
whatever the dream is,
we help make it come true.

And while doing that, we also see to it that your own personal dreams do come true.

Join Ayala Land Sales, Inc. (ALSI), the exclusive marketing arm of Ayala Land Premier, the country's top property developer, and be a part of a young, talented, dynamic, hardworking and results-oriented DREAM TEAM.

We want:
- Men and women who are 21 to 35 years of age
- Graduates of the best universities

If you have:
- A good social and/or business network
- At least one year sales experience with a successful track record

You could be the top DREAM WEAVER we're looking for!

Send your resume with colored photo to Ayala Land Sales, Inc., 2/F Tower I, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City 1226 on March 27 to 29, 2006 from 9am to 5pm.
Or e-mail your resume to ALSI at alsi@ayalaland.com.ph and indicate "Application of <your name>" on the subject line.

Anna B. Ortega
ALSI Senior Property Specialist
[illegible]

AYALA LAND SALES, INC.

JOB Market
SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2006
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For jobseekers, log on to:
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This special section comes FREE with your copy of the INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
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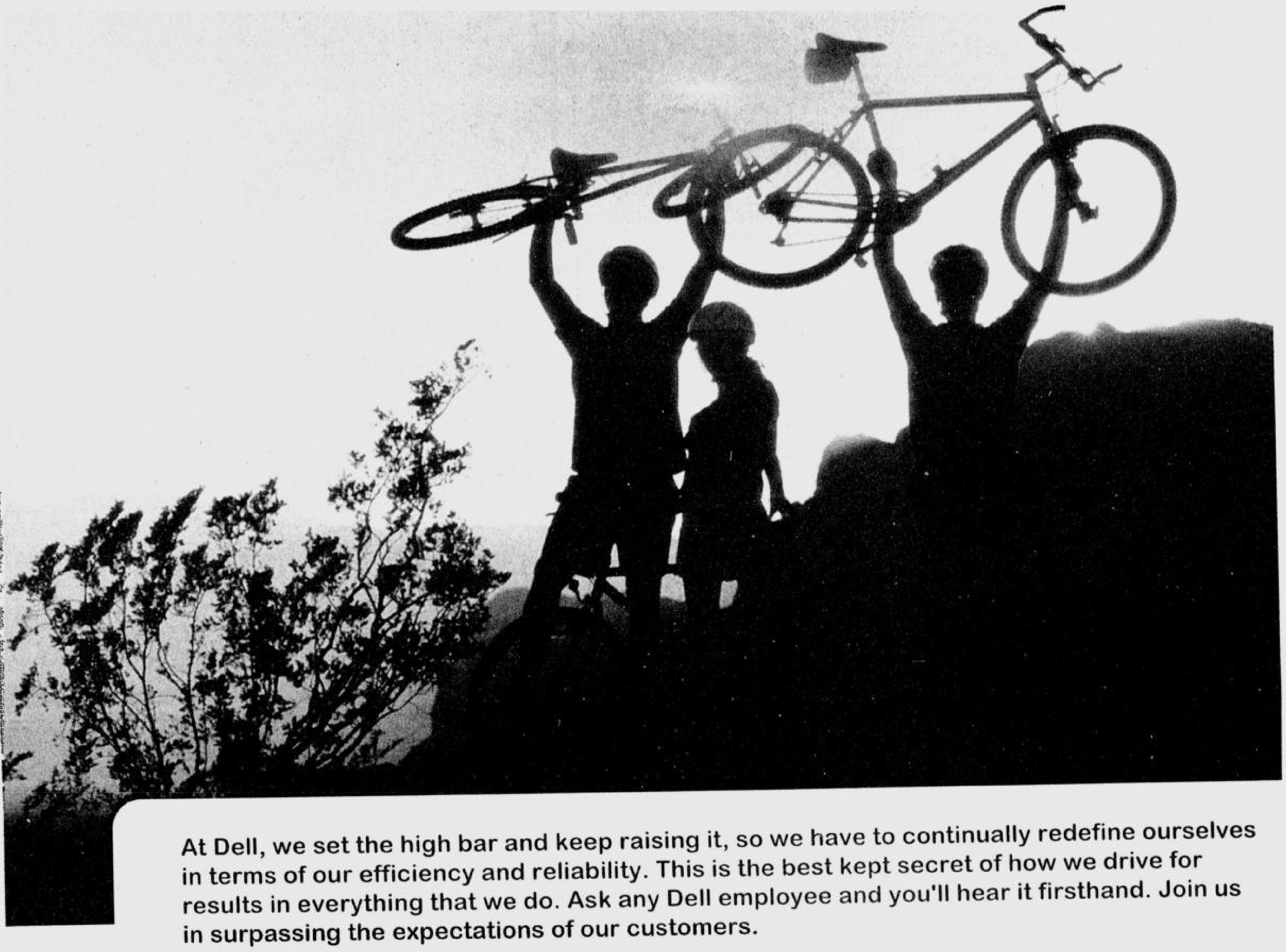
Thursday 12:00 noon
Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Where You Find The Best.

Going the extra mile
Reaching beyond the ordinary



At Dell, we set the high bar and keep raising it, so we have to continually redefine ourselves in terms of our efficiency and reliability. This is the best kept secret of how we drive for results in everything that we do. Ask any Dell employee and you'll hear it firsthand. Join us in surpassing the expectations of our customers.

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TECHNICAL TRAINERS
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Dell, one of America's Most Admired Company, is extending its worldwide network of call centers to Metro Manila. We are hiring more than 200 Technical Support Agents to support our global customers who use Dell products for home entertainment and education.

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or call us at 728-DELL for details
or visit us at our Recruiting Center: 27/F Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. corner Senator Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

DELL™
Consider the possibilities

unicef UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY

CALL FOR TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

The RP-UNICEF country program (CPC 6) covering the period 2005-2009, has a strong protection component which aims at providing children in need of special protection, with care and protection services so as to ensure the realization of their rights. As the country program is currently getting implemented in 24 focus areas, there is a need to avail baseline data which will help to better plan interventions and monitor the progress achieved towards the protection of those target children. Those data should help to know the number of children in need of special protection (CNSP) living in 9 selected areas of the 24 CPC 6 focus cities and provinces as well as additional socio- and economic information on them, their families, their communities and their place of living.

The purpose of the survey is to avail for each of the selected barangay, a masterlist of CNSPs which shall provide both quantitative and qualitative information so as to:

- define the typology of CNSPs by age and sex
- understand the socio-economic factors putting children at risks
- be able to draw inferences from the masterlist for planning purposes
- use the baseline for monitoring purposes
- establish in each barangay, a database on children in need of special protection.

The technical proposal (max. 10 pages) must provide the maximum of details on the methodology and options offered at the technical and operational levels for the survey design and data collection as well as an indicative workplan with activity deadlines. It must be accompanied by a financial proposal (max. 2 pages) which fully details the cost by activity to be undertaken. **Only consultancy firms, research institutes, public institutes or NGOs that can demonstrate significant experiences in designing/conducting surveys are encouraged to respond. The complete Terms of Reference are available upon request at UNICEF. Please call 901-0118** (Cecil).

CONSULTANT/STATISTICIAN

The consultant is expected to work under the supervision of the Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer and consult the Goal Monitoring Officer, the sector program officers as well as some of their partners to:

- analyze the availability and quality of baseline data; identify the data gap (availability, quality, etc.) for each sector program by comparing presently available baseline data with those required for CPC 6 monitoring
- produce the final list of the baseline data presently missing in each sector program
- finalize baseline data collection plan for the collection of all the baseline data required for CPC 6 monitoring
- propose the best strategy possible for quick data collection as well as define the scope (sample size, ...) and purpose of the survey(s) needed to implement the baseline data collection plan

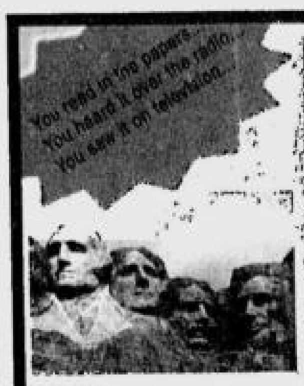
SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS:

- masters degree in statistics, applied statistics, economics, or related fields
- 5 years of relevant experience in data collection and survey design
- highly proficient in MS Word and Excel
- recent contribution in major survey design/field surveys in the Philippines an advantage

Contract is for 1.5 months; payment made upon delivery of outputs of satisfactory quality within set deadlines.

Please send proposals and curriculum vitae before **March 30, 2006** to:
Dr. Nicholas K. Alipui, UNICEF Representative
c/o The HR Unit, 31F Yuchengco Tower, RCBG Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

We will only reply to shortlisted candidates.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You heard it over the radio...
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Are you dreaming of going to America?

Today, you have the opportunity to make it a reality!

The demand for professionals is now rising! A new law was passed that opens an opportunity to anybody with a bachelor's degree to legally ***WORK***, ***LIVE*** and ***EARN*** in the U.S.

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A Seminar For All Professionals Who Are Thinking Of Working in the US

April 1, 2006 (Saturday) 10:00 AM
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A new demand this decade!

In 1980's it was the nurses...
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www.LiveandEarnintheUSA.com E-WORLD RESOURCE CENTERS, INC.

A Christian, human rights organization is seeking an experienced Social Worker to serve as the

Aftercare Manager

Position Qualifications

- Fluency in oral and written communication in English and Filipino.
- Bachelor's degree in Social Work from an accredited university.
- Licensed by Professional Regulation Commission.
- Work experience with aftercare services; various government social service programs; and NGOs working on aftercare.
- At least seven years relevant experience.
- Knowledge of Windows 2000, Windows XP, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access and Outlook.

Critical Qualities

- Mature orthodox Christian faith.
- Ability to develop a genuine passion for IJM.
- Person of integrity and honesty.
- Professionalism in demeanor, written and oral communications.
- Strong attention to detail.
- Disciplined with priorities.
- Mature judgment.
- Works well under stress.
- Sustained positive attitude.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, especially with children and women.
- Evident passion to help people suffering injustice and oppression.
- Effective as a team player and leader.

Organization Information

- Competitive salary, medical benefits, rice and clothing allowance
- Applications accepted until the position is filled

Send Resume, Cover Letter & Statement of Faith*

By Mail:
Attn: Human Resources
P.O. Box 126-B
PCCPO, Pasig City 1600

By E-mail:
llagahit@gmail.com

***What is a statement of faith?**

A statement of faith should describe your Christian faith and how you see it as relevant to your involvement with IJM. The statement can either be incorporated into cover letter or submitted as a separate document and should include, at a minimum, a description of your spiritual disciplines (prayer, study, etc) and your current fellowship or place of worship.

NONPAREIL INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT & CARGO SERVICES, INC.

urgently needs the following:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Male/Female, not over 30 years old
- Marketing Graduate or any related courses
- With experience in both air/sea freight cargo
- Computer literate and with good oral and written communication skills

AIR IMPORT MANAGER

- Male/Female, not over 35 years old
- College Graduate
- With at least 3 years experience as Air Import Manager
- Computer literate and with good oral and written communication skills

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Female, not over 30 years old
- College Graduate from reputable school
- Computer literate with good oral and written communication skills

Applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 photo and contact numbers to:

ADMIN/HRD DEPARTMENT
485 Quirino Avenue, Tambo, Paranaque City

TOENEC PHILIPPINES, INC.

A leading Japanese Contractor in Electrical & Mechanical Services is looking for aggressive and experienced individuals for the following positions for local employment.

* REGISTERED ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL ENG'R.

- Male: 25-34 yrs. old; graduate of Elec./Mech. Eng'g.
- Preferably with at least 6 yrs. work experience in Electrical & Mechanical Engineering Construction..
- Knowledgeable in field operations, job site supervision design work and project estimation works.
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Knowledgeable in Electrical/Mechanical Design

* CAD OPERATOR

- Male: 26-34 yrs. old; graduate of any drafting course
- Preferably with at least 3-yrs. work experience in Electrical & Mechanical Engineering Construction.
- Knowledgeable in both Electrical and Mechanical design works
- Can work with minium supervision.

Please send by mail or e-mail at **toenec@pldtdsl.net** your resumé, credentials and a passport size picture at:

3/F, L&F Bldg., 107 Aguirre St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

PLARIDEL PLARIDEL Products & Services Inc.

A leading provider of Innovations and Solutions for better animal health care and production is in search for dynamic and competent:

PRODUCT MANAGER

- → Not less than 5 years of experience in Sales and Marketing
- → Experienced in Product Management
- → Willing to undergo training period for Managerial Position
- → Graduate of Management, Marketing, Business Administration, Economics or any related course from a reputable school
- → Has exposure in pharma / consumer / animal health / agri products
- → Not more than 35 years old
- → Preferably with MBA units
- → Highly organized
- → Aggressive team player
- → With strong business sense
- → Knowledgeable in sales and promotional skills
- → Dynamic and creative
- → Computer literate
- → Willing to travel

VETERINARIAN for the position of TECHNICAL SERVICES OFFICER

- → Not more than 35 yrs old
- → Experienced in Small Animal Medicine
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- → Aggressive team player
- → Excellent communication and presentation skills
- → Computer literate

Interested applicants may submit their resumes to:
The President
G/F ESG Building, No. 4 West 4th St., West Triangle, Quezon City
or email to: hrd@plaridel.com.ph

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The principal function of the post is to provide administrative support to the Product Line Management Section covering all activities relating to the sales and marketing of the UNICEF products, including assistance in the development, coordination and implementation of sales/marketing plans: collecting data, compiling and analyzing information/documents on market studies competition, strategies, and forecasts.

Essential qualifications:

- College/university graduate with a degree in either a business course, sales or marketing, communication research. Additional progressive formal or on-the-job training essential particularly in sales/marketing/communication.
- At least five to six years of relevant work experience on sales/marketing and in record-keeping and processing of information.
- Background in market research and impact evaluation, presentation materials preparation, production of materials, research and report preparation, and monitoring and evaluation of marketing projects and activities, budgeting and basic accounting concepts.
- Computer literate in standard office applications, preferably in database management.
- Excellent knowledge of English and Filipino, both oral and written.

Please send cover letter and curriculum vitae before March 26, 2006 to:
The HR UNIT through e-mail: gpfernandez@unicef.org
We will only reply to shortlisted candidates.

COMPUTER PROJECT ASSISTANT

We are Philippine corporation that undertakes work for international organizations.

We require the service of a computer project assistant. The successful applicant should have the following qualifications:

- Excellent written and verbal English
- University or college graduate preferably with Journalism or a Communication Arts major in Writing degree
- No basic computer skills necessary but they would certainly be an advantage

Excellent benefits and working conditions are offered to the successful applicant. If you're interested in the above position, please write with details of your educational background and previous work experience.

Send to: **"Computer Project Assistant"**

Level 1, Unit 9, La Plaza Bldg., #38 Pres. Avenue
Teoville Subd., East BF Homes, Parañaque City 1700
Fax Number: 8207923
Email address: service@elitegrpmanage.com

URGENTLY NEEDED

FAMILY DRIVER

- Male, 30-35 years old with professional driver's license.
- Good moral character; can give references.
- Has driven both manual and automatic transmission vehicles.
- Willing to stay-in.
- Must be physically fit and in very good health; must be a NON-SMOKER.
- Must be familiar with Metro Manila streets.
- Can do car maintenance and troubleshooting repairs.
- Those who have worked abroad **need not** apply.
- Must have worked continuously as a driver for at least 5 years, preferably as a family driver.

◆ **For the qualified applicant, we offer salary of P10,500.00 a month with free meals.**

Apply PERSONALLY with Bio-data, photo and **references** to:

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Not more than 45 years old, with at least 5 years experience as heavy truck/trailer driver. Must be with good knowledge and experience in operating low bed and high bed units and has driven vehicles up to a gross combination weight of 180 tons. Must be capable of leading a team of trailer drivers of diverse nationalities. Experience with VOLVO NH12 and knowledge of troubleshooting of diesel-powered trucks will be an advantage. Must have a valid professional driver's license.

LOW BED/HIGH BED TRAILER DRIVER

Not more than 45 years old, with at least 5 years experience as heavy truck/trailer driver. Must be with good knowledge and experience in operating low bed and high bed untis and has driven vehicles up to a gross combination weight of 180 tons. Experience with VOLVO NH12 and knowledge of troubleshooting of diesel-powered trucks will be an advantage. Must have a valid professional driver's license.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC

Not more than 45 years old, with at least 5 years experience in Volvo trucks (preferably). Ex-dealer experience would be an advantage but is not mandatory. Candidates must show initiative and drive. Must have a valid professional driver's license.

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Difficult work conditions are to be expected. Carididates must expect long hours of work. Single status, renewable contracts are offered. Salary in US$ and leave rotations will be discussed at interview. Those with wide experience from foreign employers preferred.

Applicants should apply in person and submit their curriculum vitae complete with a current photograph at the following address:

Staffmasters Inc.
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No fees shall be collected from applicants.
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- To be assigned in Baguio City

Please send resumé at:
**Unit 304 The Sycamore Building
Alabang-Zapote Road
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
or email at: a-castano@shinkawa.com.ph**

(Deadline for submission of application and comprehensive resumé not later than April 2, 2006)

M·A·C
COSMETICS

The line that's always in the limelight. Backstage, on the catwalk, in the studio, on location and at the counter. Creating looks for movie stars, models, celebrities, stylemakers, divas and just about anyone who's in love with colour, style and great attitude. That's M.A.C. It's the cosmetics range that's taken the world by storm, proving too irresistible for the hip and fashion-conscious with its daring, no fuss concept. Started by make-up artist and photographer Frank Toskan and the late Frank Angelo, it's now fully-owned by the Estée Lauder Companies.

You want a piece of the action? If you have the right pre-requisites that we need i.e. aggressive, great P.R. skills, a great sense of style, dedicated and above all the right attitude, join us at M.A.C. Talk to us today and be prepared to be completely blown away...

Resident Trainer

- Proven exceptional ability in the following areas:
    - Makeup Application
    - Organizational Skills
    - Customer Service
    - Public Speaking
    - Instructional Training
    - Product Knowledge
- Must be versatile.
- Has the ability to train and coach new and existing employees and customers
- Proven ability to provide guidance, instruction and product knowledge training
- Should be able to demonstrate ability to develop creative, challenging, informative and fun ways to deliver training and educational information

Counter Manager

You will be responsible for the management of a team of M.A.C Artists and its daily operations at the store. This includes employee and customer service management to ensure that our standards and philosophy are upheld at all times. You must be fashion forward with background in make-up, fashion or art, and possess strong business and people management skills.

- Must possess strong managerial skills and retail experience.
- Must be able to maintain good inventory control and operational systems.
- Minimum 1 - 2 years' retail managerial experience
- Should be able to train and coach new and existing employees.
- Should have the ability to council employee conflicts and function in a fast paced environment.
- Excellent communication & interpersonal skills and leadership & organizational skills.
- Comfortable with managing and supervising people.
- Professional Attitude
- Ability to be flexible and deal with change.
- Must be willing to work on shifts and long hours.

Makeup Artist (Full Time)

M.A.C believes that great customer service begins with our M.A.C Artists. These Fashionable individuals with their Great Personalities and Superb Customer Service skills have won the hearts of many customers. Do you think you possess these qualities? If the answer is positive, join our elite team. All you need is at least one year's experience in make-up artistry or a Make-up Certificate. And if you are successful, we will teach you all our secrets of make-up artistry that will allow you to travel the world.

- Able to provide excellent customer service
- Able to work on shift basis and long hours
- To aggressively promote sales for M.A.C products
- Excellent communication & organizational skills
- Excellent customer service, professional attitude, ability to be flexible and handle change in a positive manner

When you join us you will benefit from working with an energetic, enthusiastic and highly skilled team. A team who will welcome your contribution and be eager to share their knowledge with you. The company provides a comprehensive programme of on-going training and personal development and this is an outstanding opportunity to build your career with a highly successful cosmetics company.

Please write in with a full resume, stating qualification details, work experience, expected salary and include a recent photograph and contact number(s) to:

The Human Resources Manager 7/F Liberty Center Building, 104 HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, 1225 Philippines Fax: 844-0848 E-mail: bepesayco@rustans.com.ph

Closing date: March 30, 2006.

All applications will be treated as strictly confidential. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

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Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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1023 San Marcelino St., Ermita

March 31, 2006
Interview-All professions: 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
FREE Seminar (Other Professionals): 5:00PM–8:00 PM

April 1, 2006
Interview-All professions: 9:30 AM-5:00 PM
FREE Seminar(Nurses, PT & OT):5:00PM–8:00PM

Cebu City

Chow King Conference Facility
JY Square Bldg., Salinas Corner Gorordo Ave Lahug

April 2, 2006
Interview-All professions: 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM
FREE Seminar (Nurses/PT/OT): 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Interview-All professions: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

April 3, 2006
Interview-All professions: 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM
FREE Seminar (Other Professionals): 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Cagayan De Oro City

The Dynasty Hotel
Tiano corner Hayes Sts., Cagayan de Oro City

April 4, 2006
Interviews-All professions: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
FREE Seminar (Nurses/PT/OT): 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Application & Registration Forms Available at:
CCF Copy and Printshoppe – T. Chavez St.

Iligan City

Café Hemoso
Badelles Ext., Lanao Del Norte, Pala-o, Iligan City

April 5, 2006
Interview-All professions: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
FREE Seminar (Nurses/PT/OT): 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Davao City

The Apo View Hotel
J. Camus St., Davao City

April 6, 2006
Interview-All professions: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

April 7, 2006
Interview-All professions: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
FREE Seminar (Other Professionals): 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

April 8, 2006
Interview-All professions: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
FREE Seminar (Nurses/PT/OT)1:00-3:00 PM
Interview- Nurses/PT/OT: 3:00 PM - 5:00

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Basic Requirements for Interview

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Resume and Bio-Data w/ 2 passport-size photos
NCLEX Certificate (if available)
CGFNS & VisaScreen (if available)
IELTS/TOEFL-TSE (if available)
Phil. License, PRC Certificate and Board Rating
Certified Transcript Of Record (TOR)
College & High School Diploma
3 Certificates of Employment
Training & Seminar Certificates

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS
Resume and Bio-Data w/ 2 passport-size photos
NPTE Certificate or Proof of Application & Review Class
FCCPT Certificate (if Available)
TOEFL-TSE Certificate (if available)
Phil. License, Board Certificate and Board Rating
Certified Transcript Of Record (TOR)
College & High School Diploma
3 Certificates of Employment
Training & Seminar Certificates

CPAs, ACCOUNTANTS, IT, ENGINEERS, ETC.
Resume and Bio-Data w/ 2 passport-size photos
Phil. License, Board Certificate and Board Rating (if applicable)
Certified Transcript Of Record (TOR)
College & High School Diploma
3 Certificates of Employment
Training & Seminar Certificates

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- Graduate of Civil/Structural Engineering, computer literate and knows how to operate at least Autocadd software
- Male/Age 25 to 30 years old
- Minimum of 5 years working experience in building/construction
- Must be familiar with the Building/Fire Code of the Philippines
- Previous work experience in a village association is an advantage
- Responsibilities will include assessment and monitoring of construction in the village; preparation reports for the Building Committee; attend to residents' queries on construction and restrictions; and other duties related to the role of a village engineer.

Interested applicants may send their credentials to:

Ms. Gloria Ambay
Bel-Air Village Association, Inc.
40 Solar Street, Bel-Air Village
Makati City 1209
Tel. Nos. 895-9412/897-1856/895-4011

Only short-listed applicants will be interviewed.

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4. Should have the ambition to advance to the highest levels of the organization, and to influence social and political communities
5. Should be willing to work full time, including late and off hours, weekends and holidays and to travel to any part of the Philippines and abroad
6. Should have flexible work attitudes involving total commitment to adapt to the institution's existing culture
7. Preferably single or willing to place professional tasks ahead of family.
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9. No formal education or experience needed
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  - Familiarity with U.S. standards will be a plus factor
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(National Capital Reg - Pasig City)

Responsibilities:
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- Institute effective accounting system and internal controls
- Budget preparation and variance analysis
- Ensure compliance with tax regulations and business license and permits
- Handles Cash Flow Projections, Receivable, and Payables

Requirements:

Candidate must possess a Professional License in Accountancy
Experience in accounting System and Application
1 year above experience in accounting field
Knowledge in tax regulation and business permits

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- Candidates must be Good-looking and has Good Communication skills
- Applicants must be willing to be work in MAKATI City
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All applicants must submit their resumé with recent 2x2 picture at 2nd level Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Makati City or e-mail: fritzwebb@basementsalon.com

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MS SQL Administrator (GPRC-007)
Experience in MS SQL database maintenance, performance, database design
3G Developer (GPRC-010)
Working knowledge in 3G development on mobile phones
EAI/PORTAL and JAVA Programmers (MMR-14)
Expert in J2EE, over 5 years web-based enterprise application development
AS400/RPG Programmers (MMR-16)
AS/400 /S36 expertise, 2 years experience in RPG/400/ILE, JDE Knowledge
Project Managers (MMR-17)
Experience in project management, software development and hardware
Business Intelligence-Data Warehouse Developers (MMR-18)
Experience in analyzing and designing business intelligence applications

What do you do?

Language Translator (Technical Writer) (MMR-08)
Diploma in English and Filipino (Tagalog), has basic computer skills
Accounts Management Head (MMR-02)
Masteral degree / units, with at least 4 years experience in accounts management
Data Analyst (MPIBM-001)
Good written communication skills, work experience on data administration,
Treasury Assistant (MPIBM-002)
Analyze cash movement and prepare of reports, reconcile bank accounts
Payroll Admin (MPIBM-005)
Good attention to handling payroll data, work schedule is 9pm to 6am
Medical Editor (MPWM-001)
Graduate of a four (4) year medical or allied medical course required
Medical Transcriptionist (cf) (MPSC-001)
Graduate of any medical allied health courses, Minimum 1 year experience in field
Admin Assistant (MPUNI-001)
Preferably with HR background-availment of benefits, work schedule is 9pm to 6am
.NET Developer (MPUNI-002)
At least 5 years experience, working experience in VB.NET, C#, and ASPX
Accountant (SAP Implementation) (MPGLT-001)
A Certified Public Accountant - CPA, must have experience in SAP implementation
General Accountant (MPUNI-003)
At least 5 years experience, specializes in Finance - General/Cost Accounting
CM Analyst (MPUNI-004)
At least 5 years work experience doing change management in IT or public sector
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JAVA, IP Socket Programming, Multi-Threading skills, Preferably with ISO8583
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Opportunity in United Kingdom:
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Opportunity in China:
Senior Product Engineer
Min 3 years experience in failure analysis on drive failures, familar with C, C++, VB, Matlab, Assembly Language, support for yield improvement, ODT DPPM reduction
Opportunities in Singapore:
Foreman (Hull/Welding/Dimension/Control/Mechanical/Piping/Electrical)
Min 3 years experience in a shipyard or heavy industry, diploma/degree in marine
Commissioning Superintendent (Mechanical/Piping)
Familiar with testing procedures and applicable rules and regulations in shipyard
Planning Engineer
Experience in MS Project or Primavera, MS Access in a marine or offshore facility
Design Engineer (Piping/Electrical/Outfit)
Min 6 years experience in basic design, construction engineering in marine or offshore
Application/Product Development Engineer (Telco)
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- ✓ Have a good working knowledge of XML
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- ✓ Able to work on a variable shift schedule including weekends and holidays
- ✓ Able to meet tight production deadlines
- ✓ Graduate of any four- or five-year course
- ✓ Previous experience working for a multinational company

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- ✓ Graduate of BS Accountancy with good scholastic records
- ✓ At least 3 years work experience in receivables/payables management and bank transactions (local and overseas) for a multinational company
- ✓ Adept in using Sun accounting system
- ✓ Well-versed in MS Office applications, specifically Intermediate Excel
- ✓ Excellent oral and written English skills, interpersonal skills and telephone etiquette
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Qualified applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than Friday, March 31, 2006, to The HR & Administration Manager at the following address:

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For details & appointment of Interview

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0917-3977210

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Send resumé with picture & credentials or email to: whdcorp@pldtdsl.net

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Interviews : 4 May 2006

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If you are interested in applying for this post, please access a job pack from the VSO Philippines website – vsophilippines@yahoo.com. The website includes the VSO standard application form and the job description. Please download both documents. WE WILL ONLY CONSIDER APPLICATIONS IN ELECTRONIC FORM. Forms must be submitted no later than 12.30 hrs. 17 April 2006.

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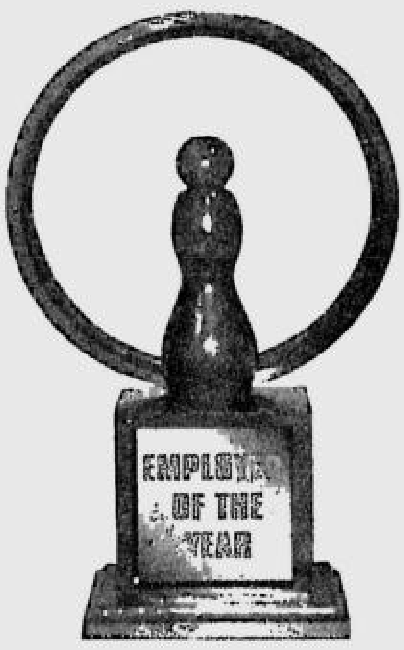

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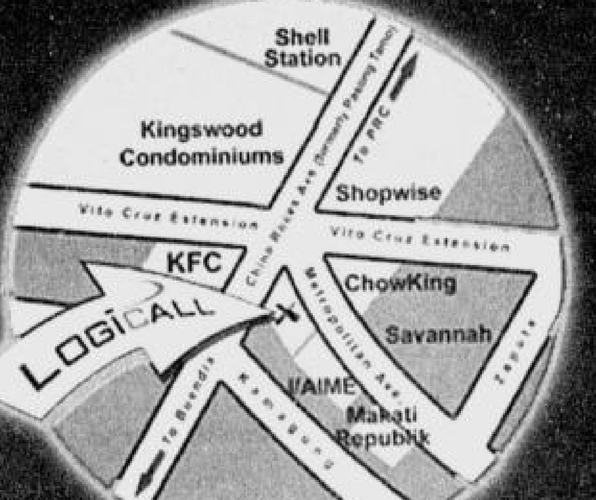

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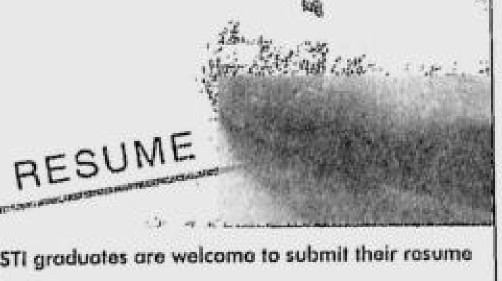

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- Must be a Degree Holder of Engineering or IT related;
- Master's degree in Management or any related field is advantageous;
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- Knowledge in Internet and Email Management;
- In good physical and medical condition as certified by a physician;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their application letter, Curriculum Vitae, Diploma and Transcript of Records, either through mail or fax to the HRMD Office, 2nd floor, PNRC National Headquarters, Port Area, Manila (fax # 527-6219) on or before 30 March 2006. Interview of qualified applicants shall be announced on a later date.

The HRMD
The Philippine National Red Cross
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila

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Or email address: admin@brentcorp.org

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- Must be a resident of any of the above areas.
- Preferably male, willing to work on an early morning shift and in a fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment.
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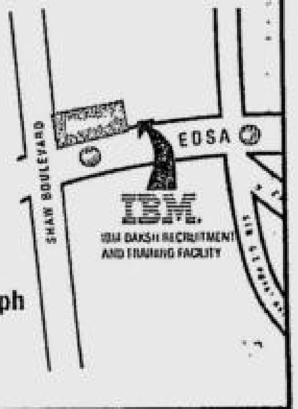

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- Highly motivated; aggressive; hardworking;
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- Must be based within the Pampanga area, otherwise must be willing to relocate;
- Preferably male, willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment.

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Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required in both positions and very importantly, applicants must have outgoing personalities and be enthusiastic self-starters.

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Please send resumé **(incl. current salary details)** by post, email or fax to:

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PMAP seminar set

THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines is sponsoring a seminar on Creativity@Work scheduled on March 28, 1–5pm. An interactive and innovative workshop that will help individuals and teams develop and sharpen their creative thinking ability through research-based techniques for breakthrough achievements.

A two-day workshop on Competency Based Interviewing Techniques is scheduled on March 29-30. At the end of this workshop, the participants will be able to describe the competency model and its benefits; discuss the requirements of competency interviewing techniques; conduct competency based interview and identify the resources needed within the company in preparation for a competency based interview process. Registration fee is P5,600 for PMAP Members and P7,100 for Non PMAP Members.

A two-day workshop on Legal Considerations in Compensation which will be held on March 30-31. Registration fee is P5,600 for PMAP Members and P7,100 for Non PMAP Members. It is an introductory module that provides for a comprehensive view of the different legal enactments, rules and regulations that deals with the subject of employee compensation. It gives the legal basis of existing benefits and rewards, the requisites for compliance with these laws and the corresponding sanctions and effects in the application of all legal requirements.

For reservations, please contact The Human Resource Management Development Center at telephone numbers 726-1581; 726-1588 or 726-1532; email address: mira.jakosalem@pmap.org.ph or you may visit the website: www.pmap.org.ph

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How can we really improve ethics at work?

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

DEAR READERS: ARE YOU tired of seeing corporate executives going to jail? I am. I wanted to explore an approach to ethics at work that actually works. So I talked to Lee Roy Beach, Ph.D., one of the world's top decision researchers, retired MBA professor and author of "Leadership and the Art of Change: A Practical Guide to Organizational Transformation" (Sage, 2005).

Working Wounded (WW): Given all the ethics training, why are there so many scandals?

Lee Beach (LB): The problem with ethics is not that we lack them, it's that we have difficulty recognizing when they're relevant. We're shocked when other people behave badly, but when we behave badly we can rationalize why it was necessary. The ethical lapses I've lived to regret didn't seem to be lapses at the time. It was only afterward that I realized how badly I behaved. I wasn't knowingly unethical; I simply failed to recognize that the situation was ethically dangerous.

WW: Can you give me a definition of ethics?

LB: Pursuit of unwarranted gain.

WW: What can an organization do?

LB: Few of us think of ourselves as unethical and we resent being told that we are—so there is built-in resistance to training. Begin by changing the focus from the characteristics of employees to the characteristics of dangerous situations. Any particular business's activities give rise to dangerous situations that are more or less unique to that business. The key is to help employees recognize these situations when they arise and to provide guidelines for dealing with them.

WW: How do people get in trouble at work?

LB: Four main ways. Abuse of power (e.g., sexual harassment or bribery), abuse of knowledge (e.g., insider training or misrepresentation of its financial status) or abuse of affiliation or relationships, abuse of access (e.g., misappropriation of company's intellectual property or using friendly politicians to gain unfair advantage over competitors) and abuse of relationships (misuse of company's name to support one's own political or social agenda and colluding to fix prices with a competitor); all in the pursuit of unwarranted gain on one kind or another.

WW: What is the first step an organization should take?

LB: Because people already believe themselves to be ethical, it is best not to even use the word—use "conduct" instead. Create a Code of Conduct that describes (1) the dangerous situations, (2) what to do or not to do in each situation, and, (3) the rewards for doing what you should and the penalties for doing what you shouldn't. Doing this moves the discussion from abstract ethics to concrete behavior and it provides an enforceable company policy with explicit consequences for appropriate and inappropriate behavior.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

WW: What is the biggest mistake that an organization makes?

LB: They try to reinvent the wheel. The Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions has compiled large collection of existing codes available at: http://ethics.iit.edu/codes/index.html. Using these as models can save a lot of time and expense and will focus on what is really important.

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, bestselling author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

Betrayed by protégé!

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Josie O. Santamaria

(Continued from March 12)

YOU STILL have 10 to 20 years or even more of life and the quality of your life will depend on your attitude toward yourself, your openness to see the opportunities that come your way and your readiness to see the right and appropriate ones for you.

What career options do you now have at age 63? Write these down. Your objective is to list down as many as you can, based on your interests (i.e., what you enjoy doing), your formal education (perhaps you did not practice your profession because you had pursued a different corporate career path laid out for you), your skills and talents (including those that you did not use in your corporate life), and your hobbies. Then, assess your current and future needs.

Immediate objectives

From your e-mail, it seems that your immediate objectives now are to have a job that will provide you and your wife with a regular income, which can provide you with a comfortable life and to augment your savings that you can live on in the future. Using this as criteria, go over your list and make a shorter list of those options that will enable you to realistically achieve this objective.

At age 63, you can go back to corporate life in general management of a smaller company or as a consultant in your specialized field. Expect a much smaller compensation package in general management compared to what you were used to getting.

If you work as consultant, ask yourself what skills and expertise do you have that a company can use? What service can you provide which can be outsourced to you? Write down the business challenges you had faced in your corporate career and the skills you used to meet these challenges successfully. Be clear about your accomplishments, your areas of expertise and the kind of problems you can help a company solve.

Market yourself

Your second objective is to market yourself. Make a winning resumé because you need this to market yourself in the corporate world. Send your resumé to your headhunters, to your former mentees, and to your network list. Be specific on what areas you can be of service to them. Surf the Internet or read a good book on how to set up a consulting practice, which includes marketing yourself.

Networking is vital in achieving your objectives. List down your past business associates, the people you had mentored and helped in the past, your adult children's friends, your relatives, your co-alumni and others. Attend annual conventions of your professional organization, alumni reunions, family reunions and other similar gatherings for these are good sources of leads to people who can be in your network list.

Let these people in your list know what service you can provide and request them to refer you to people they know. Invest in good calling cards that you can give

BETRAYED/P. 5★★★★

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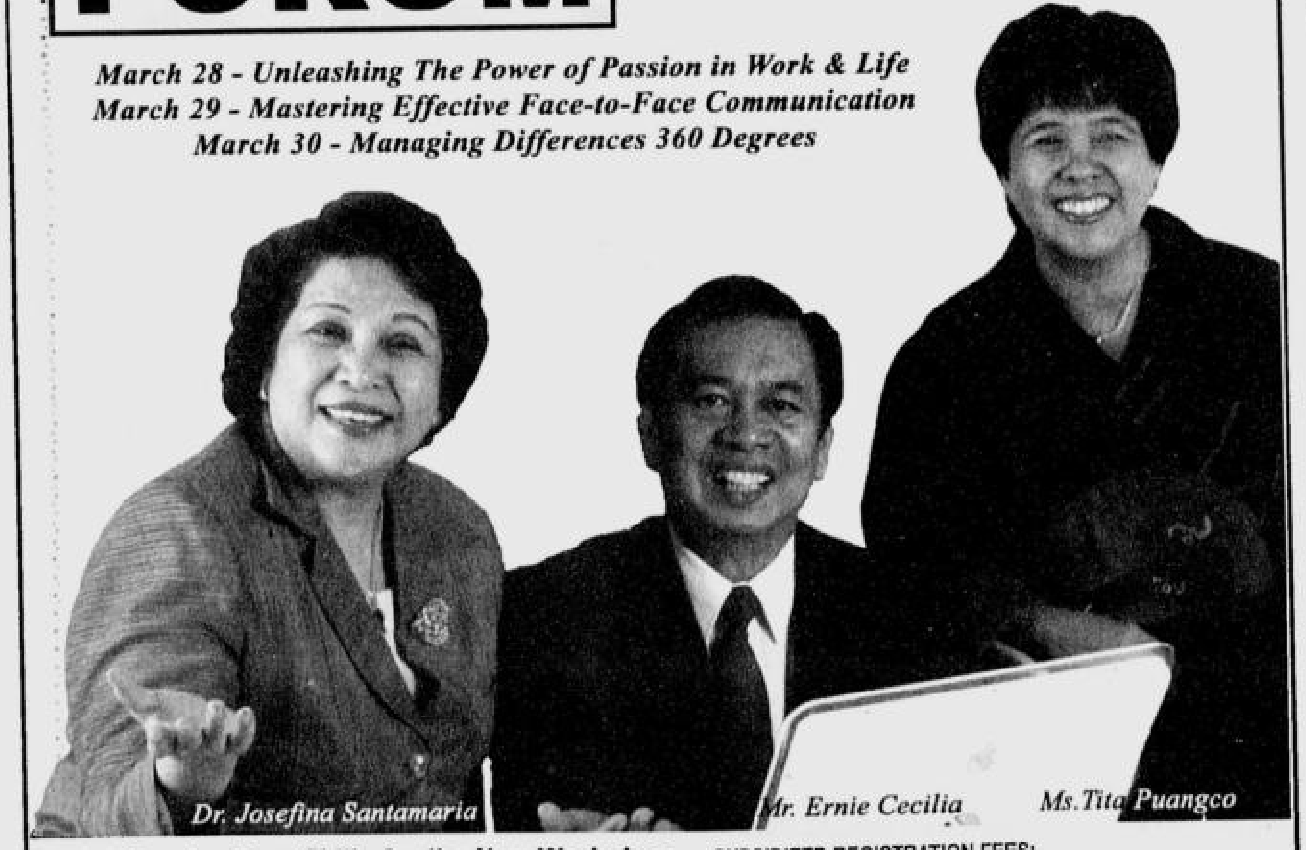
March 29 - Mastering Effective Face-to-Face Communication
March 30 - Managing Differences 360 Degrees



Dr. Josefina Santamaria *Mr. Ernie Cecilia* *Ms. Tita Puangco*

1st Quarter Run: Skills for the New Workplace
TIME: 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
VENUE: Francisco Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City

March 28, 2006 (Tuesday)
Unleashing the Power of Passion in Work and Life
TITA DATU PUANGCO, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc
Passion is what gives shape and substance to our dreams in life and at work. We all can wield the power of passion to help us achieve our goals at work and in life. How do we unleash this power? Ms. Puangco will show us how we can tap into our innermost stengths to allow passion into our lives. In so doing, we are able to live up to our fullest potential as human beings

March 29, 2006 (Wednesday)
Mastering Effective Face-to-Face Communication at Work
JOSEFINA O. SANTAMARIA, President, Career Systems, Inc.
As e-mail, instant messaging and other electronic means of communication become common at work, the opportunities afforded by face-to-face communication have never been more important. This session will show you how to speak directly and confidently, assert yourself in uncomfortable situations, and offer constructive criticism. Learn also how to use the speaking word more effectively, influence listeners, convey confidence with body language and avoid misunderstanding.

March 30, 2006 (Thursday)
Managing Differences 360 Degrees
ERNIE O. CECILIA, President, EC Business Solutions and Career Center
There will always be differences in personalities, ideas, perceptions and in many other areas mong people. Working in organizations means that one has to work well with others. This session will give you a guide to managing differences with people from all levels in the organization such as your bosses, subordinates, colleagues and other people who support your company like suppliers, customers and other stakeholders. This skill may be the thin line which divides the survivors and the castaways in the organization.

SUBSIDIZED REGISTRATION FEES:
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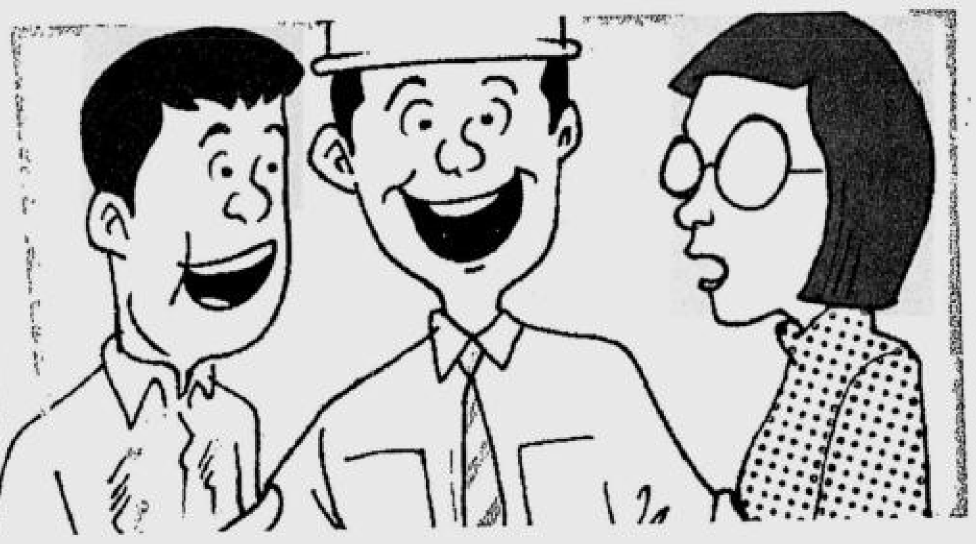


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

'I want to work outside the family company!'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I WANT TO APPLY WITH another company because for the past several years I have been helping in our little family business with a variety of duties. Now our business is not doing well. The point is, if I apply with another company, do you think I should tell the truth that I work with a small family business? Or should I lie and tell them that I've worked for another company?

I am getting bored because I am not learning anymore. I want to explore and meet other people and to experience how to work with an international company. If I get a new job, I can still help my family in our business after office hours. My challenge is how to tell my family about my desire.

One time I tried applying in a company. The interviewer asked me a question what is the most frequent problem I encounter at work. I had to invent answers. How do I ensure I get a good job? How can I overcome the limitations of my current job?

Continuous Learner

You have dutifully supported your family business for the past years. You think it is time for you to find a job where you can learn more and earn more. After all your family business is in a downturn.

I wish to support your desire to move out of your comfort zone and find a new and challenging job. But first things first. Prepare a resumé and anticipate interviews. When writing your resumé, try to think through all the skills you have gained doing the job with the family. One positive aspect is the fact that when you are with a family company, you typically multitask and develop multiple skills. Then, try to think through what possible jobs you can fill in with the same or allied industries you are most familiar with.

Honesty is best

You are asking if you should lie about the fact that you worked with the family company. Personally, what is best is to tell the truth, to be transparent. Integrity is a core value of most companies. It would be sad to lose your job because of an unnecessary lie. Instead, think of all the positive things about having worked with the family business and use them to advantage when you are called for the interview.

Then, prepare for the interview. Ask a friend to simulate an interview with him or her asking you questions and you practice giving your re-

I WANT'/P. 5★★★★

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Self-promotion

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES, there has been a trend towards self-promotion in the corporate circles. When one applies for a job, the resumé now may contain claims that highlight the applicant's assets. It's called self-promotion. Long ago, the practice (in submitting resumés) used to be just providing the would-be employer with names that serve as character references who were in turn expected to put in a good word for the applicant in question. Now, applicants are even expected to say something good about themselves; in fact, this would tend to give one an edge over more modest applicants. Promoting oneself at the job interview would not be considered bragging, but rather a mark of self-confidence, of the ability to bring to light one's talents that would otherwise remain hidden by a false sense of modesty.

Here in the Philippines, self-promotion may most likely be viewed as *pagbubuhat ng sariling bangko*—literally "lifting one's own chair (or stool)"—and that's categorized as "bad manners." One who promotes himself thus would then be labeled *mayabang*, a showoff, and might even harm his own chances of employment.

But there must be a middle ground somewhere between overconfidence and false modesty—and that is struck when the self-promoting claims are based on truth. It's a highly competitive world we're in now, and you just might get left behind if you don't know how to promote yourself. But if you must promote yourself, let it show that you're living the truth—just state facts supported by a sterling track record. Say why and how you can be an asset to the setup. Promote yourself not to put yourself up on a pedestal but to offer your dedicated services that will definitely be of benefit to the whole company. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

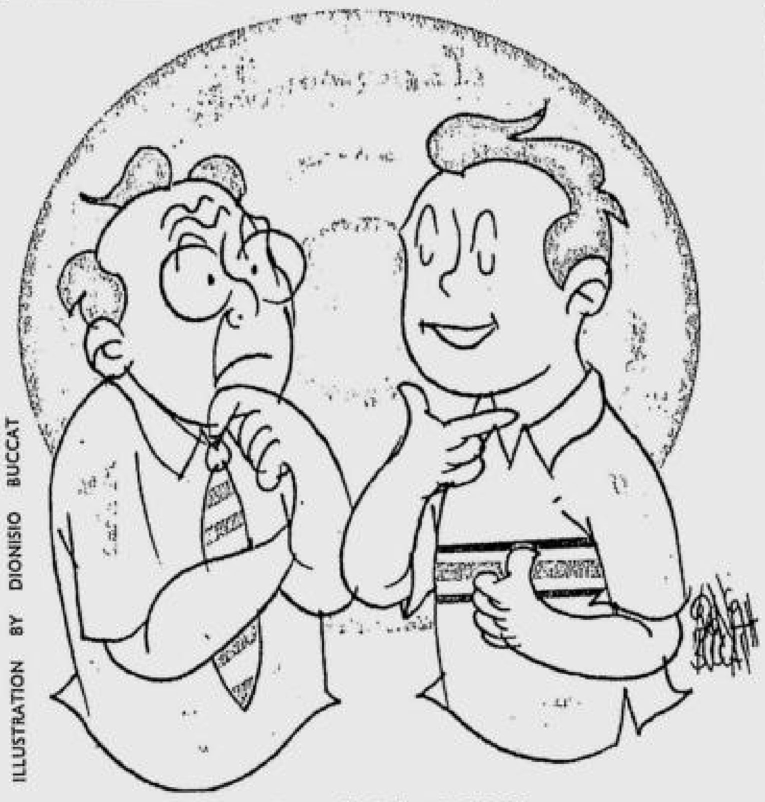


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel - John 3:14-21

But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

Total performance evaluation

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

PERIODIC EVALUATION OF ONE'S WORK PERFORMance done by either the worker himself or by his peers or superiors is a valuable tool for self-improvement and also for the success of the business or company he works for. Knowing his strengths and weaknesses, the worker could plan and work out how to become a much better person and work in a more laudable way. However, in the assessment process, there seems to be a tendency in many of us to see in ourselves negative, undesirable traits and mistakes or failures more than the good and positive ones. This rather pessimistic outlook of ourselves, even if it is "truthful"—corresponding to our failure-laden lives—could discourage us more than it could drive us to become better, more efficient workers.

A more complete evaluation would consider the other side of the "truth" about us—that we share in God's goodness being created in His "image and likeness." Even if we experience often the weight of our "sinful humanity," this fundamental and divine goodness in us continues to be one of the potent strengths we all have. Unfortunately, we oftentimes fail to "bring to the light" this reality in our consciousness and consequently, we do not translate it into good works in our life.

The message of Jesus in today's Gospel enlightens and deepens the process of evaluating everyone in the workplace. Humble faith and complete trust in Jesus' words could overcome the negative and paralyzing feelings caused by our weaknesses and failures. Turning to Jesus will give us the strength to live and work in the truth of God's goodness in us, which will shine through our works and make us praise and thank God. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

'I want to work outside the family ...'

From page 4★★★★

sponses. Today, behavior-based interviewing is used. The core principle is to surface incidents that demonstrate specific competencies or qualities. These competencies come from the requirements of the job.

Once you are ready, then you make a list of job prospects. The fastest way to get these prospects could be referrals from friends or neighbors. Or take a look at job sites on the Internet or the newspaper ads.

Inform parents

Finally, get the courage to tell your parents about your decision. Tell them what you intend to do with courtesy and consideration. You can start by thanking them for entrusting you with the job you have done the past years. Then explain how you have decided to move on to a job in another company and ask for their support. You can assure them that after work, if needed, you can continue to help.

Let me accompany you with my prayers as you undergo the transition from working with the family company to the wider world of bigger companies.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. E-mail advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or call telephone numbers 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.)*

Betrayed by protégé!

From page 4★★★★

to people in your network.

While waiting for consulting projects, you can share your expertise by teaching in an educational institution to add to your financial resources. Keep expenses down and remove the "wants" from your and your wife's shopping lists.

Trim expenses

Your wife can also do the same. She can have a home-based business using her skills in handicrafts, cooking, baking, growing ornamental plants, etc. You can both attend practical courses offered by the Technology and Livelihood Resources Center with telephone numbers 637-4018 to 22, or 637-4108 to 12. E-mail to cco@tlrc.gov.ph.

The important thing is not to feel helpless and hopeless. Surely, if you trust God and He is at the center of your life, you will discover how He is leading you out of the desert into "streams of living water."

Many corporate people are forced out by politics or a global and competitive business environment. They realize that job security is a thing of the past. On the other hand, they find their second careers in retirement far more fulfilling and satisfying because they have an opportunity to pursue careers in line with their real interests, skills and potentials. God bless you!

(Ms Santamaria is president of Career Systems, Inc., a professional psychologist and counselor, and a mentor and executive coach. She has a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of the Philippines. Visit, www.careersystems.com.ph *for more information.)*

NSO survey on employment shows brighter prospects ahead—DOLE

THE LATEST ROUND OF LABOR FORCE Survey (LFS) issued by the National Statistics Office (NSO), indicating an 8.1 percent unemployment rate, generally shows a bright prospect for the year in terms of the employment situation.

This was the statement made by Acting Labor and Employment Secretary Manuel G. Imson as he refuted some media reports portraying the contrary.

Imson said the 8.1 percent unemployment rate in Jan. 2006, in fact, shows a 2.4 percent growth in employment (about 750,000 new employment) when compared to the marginal 0.3 percent growth (about 87,000 new employment) registered during the same period last year.

"We would like to correct that misimpression and clarify fully and accurately the facts pertaining to the Philippines' employment situation, and the economy's bright capacities for employment and economic growth," Imson said.

He said that it is downright inaccurate to compare the improvements in employment posted in the LFS in January 2006 with those registered in October 2005.

"The correct reference period for the interpretation of the LFS data is year-on-year," Imson said. "Doing otherwise is incorrect because the LFS data are not seasonally-adjusted, that is, the factors between survey rounds are not comparable."

"For example, in the October period leading to the Christmas season, employment and economic activity perk up, while the January period is seen to slacken, nevertheless, employment in January 2006 registered remarkable improvements," the Acting Labor Chief pointed out.

The situation, he added, is similar to the inflow of dollar remittances that is at its peak during the Christmas season and would temper at the start of the year.

"What we are saying here is that the accurate assessment would be on year-on-year basis. When we talk about the January 2006 round, the point of comparison should be the January 2005. We do not want our people to be misled by wrong interpretation of statistical data," Imson said.

The NSO survey showed that the marked improvements in the country's employment levels in January 2006 brought the total employed persons to 32.384 million nationwide in January 2006, with 10 out of the 14 subsectors registering employment growth.

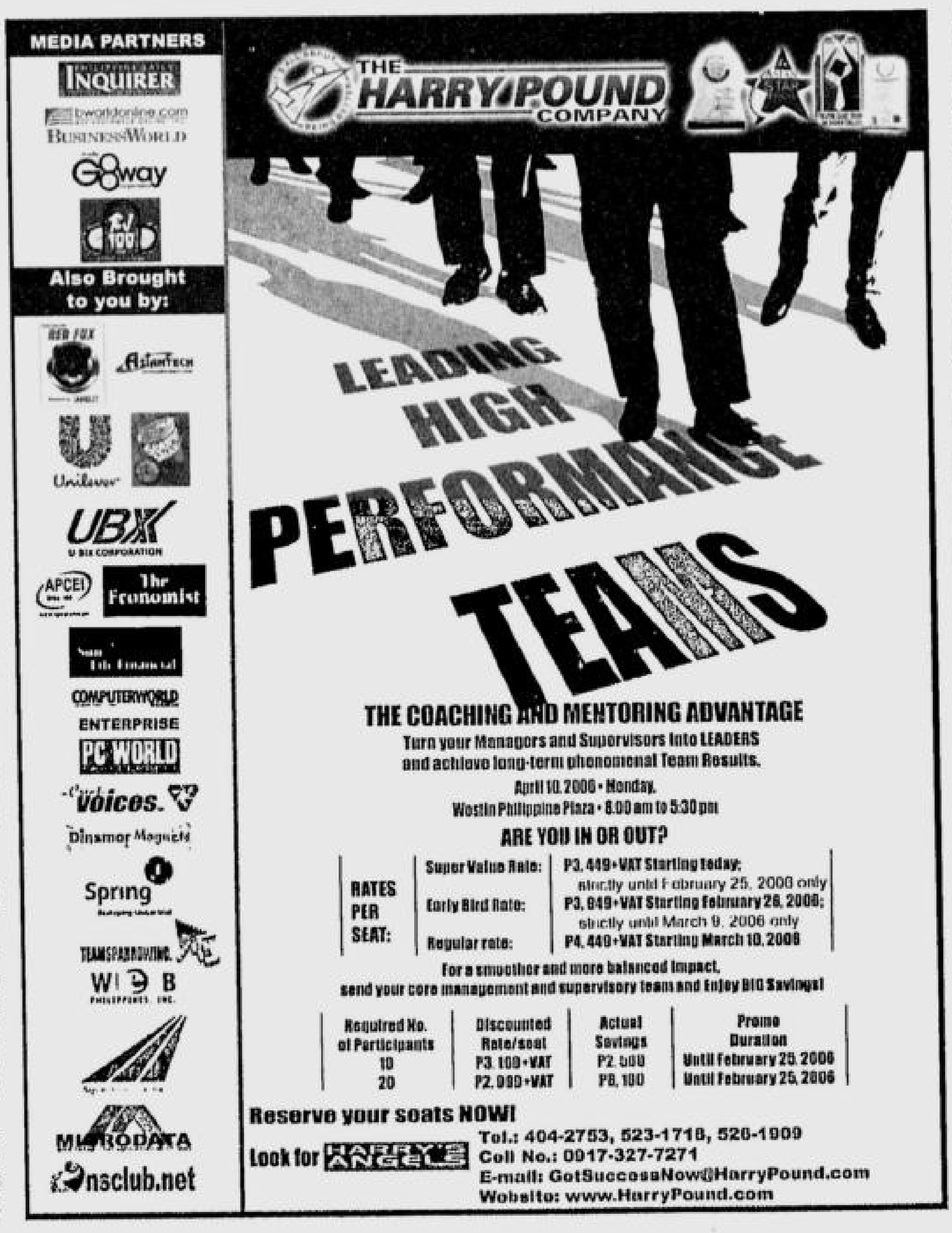
Imson identified the subsectors, which in synergy accounted for a total 750,000 increment in national employment levels, as follows:

Wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants, transport, storage and communications, financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities, public administration and defense, education, other community, social and personal service activities, private households, electricity, gas and water, and agriculture.

Using the old definition of unemployment, Imson said that the unemployment rate for January 2006 would register at 10.7 percent, which is still 0.6 percent lower than last year's 11.3 percent.

RETIREMENT FACILITY BY THE LAKE

In a meeting on March 10, at the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) office in Makati, the possibility of putting up a retirement facility at The Lakeshore was discussed. CCEI president and CEO Archt. Nestor S. Mangio (fourth from left) was there to present the estate which boasts of its 12-hectare man made lake. Also present in the meeting were (from left) Edgardo M. Capulong, president of Great Life Philippines Retirement Corp., Gary Quemado II and Edmundo Castañeda president/general manager and board chair of Asiapro Cooperative respectively, PNP Chief Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay, Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas, University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) vice president, Pastor T. Lorenzo, Jr., executive vice president – Science Park of the Philippines, Anthony Almeda of SM Malls, Winston Conrad Padojinog, UA&P senior economist, Camp John Hay CEO Comdr. Benigno Cabrieto, Jr., and Tony Villareal, director of Canyon Woods Residential Resort.



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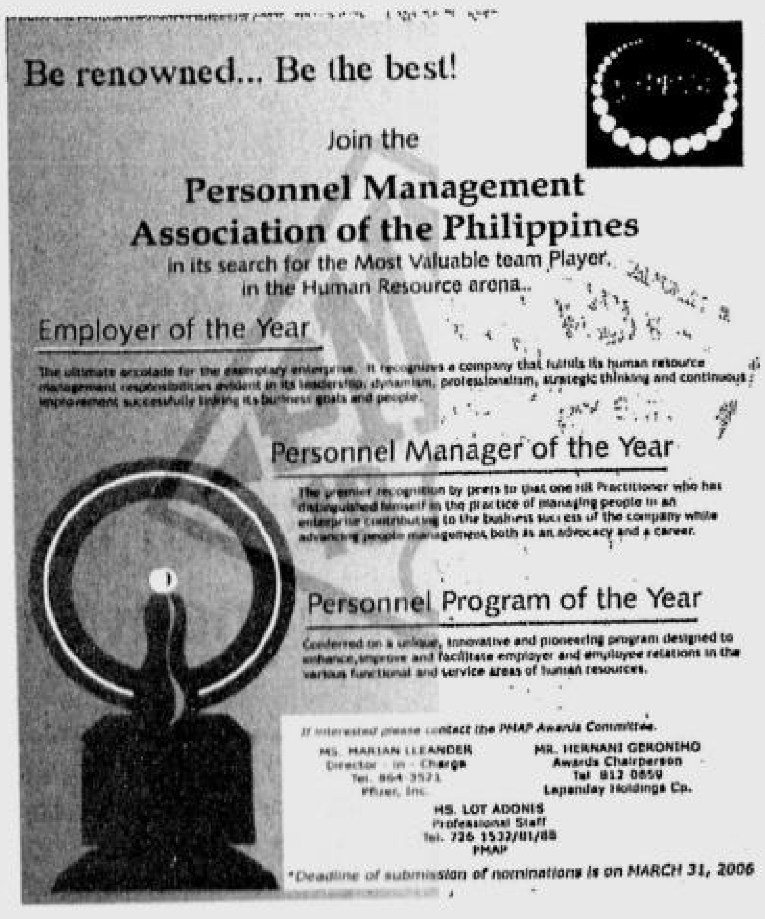

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INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

MARCH 26, 2006

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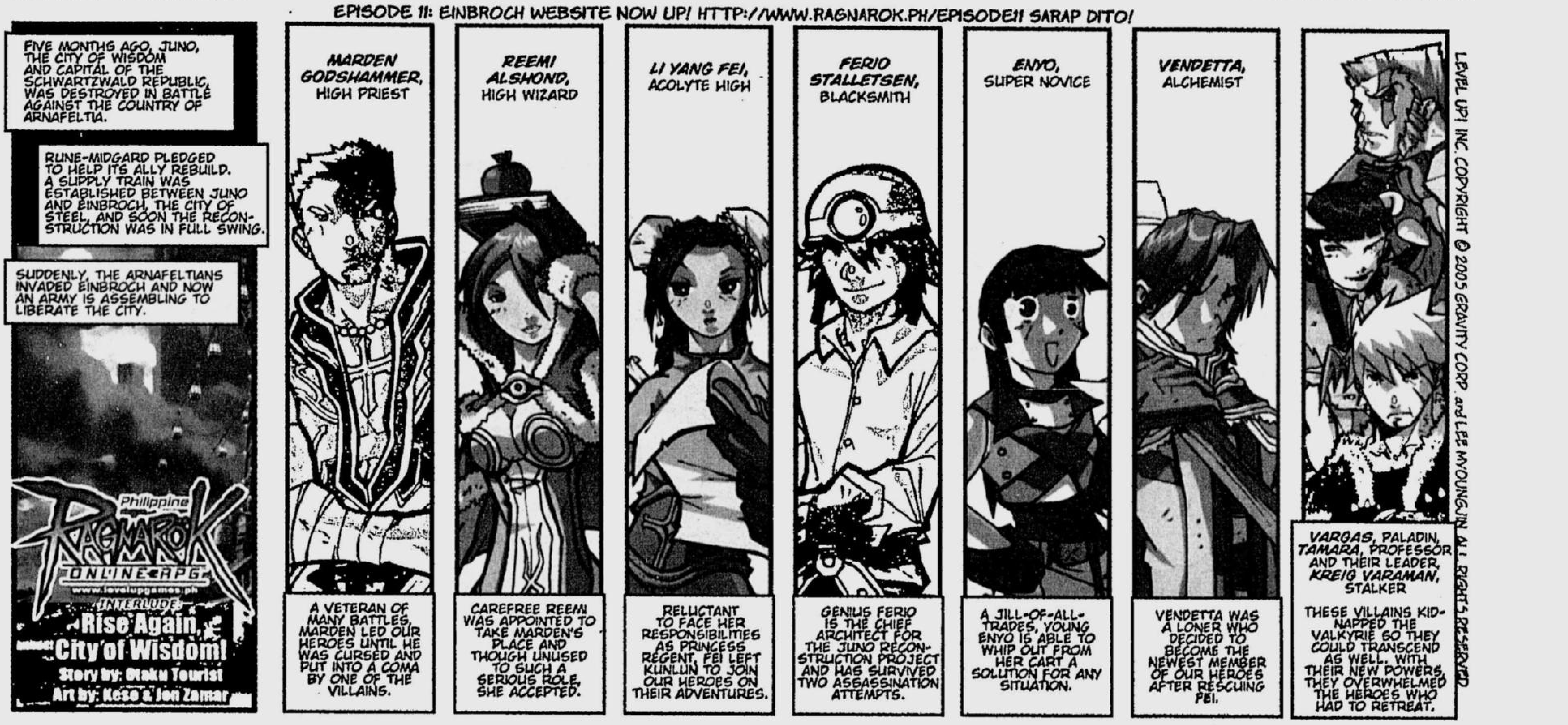
RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES


EPISODE 11: EINBROCH WEBSITE NOW UP! HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE11 SARAP DITO!
FIVE MONTHS AGO, JUNO, THE CITY OF WISDOM AND CAPITAL OF THE SCHWARTZWALD REPUBLIC, WAS DESTROYED IN BATTLE AGAINST THE COUNTRY OF ARNAFELTIA.
RUNE-MIDGARD PLEDGED TO HELP ITS ALLY REBUILD. A SUPPLY TRAIN WAS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN JUNO AND EINBROCH, THE CITY OF STEEL, AND SOON THE RECONSTRUCTION WAS IN FULL SWING.
SUDDENLY, THE ARNAFELTIANS INVADED EINBROCH AND NOW AN ARMY IS ASSEMBLING TO LIBERATE THE CITY.
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
INTERLUDE: Rise Again, City of Wisdom!
Story by: Otaku Tourist
Art by: Keso & Jon Zamar
MARDEN GODSHAMMER, HIGH PRIEST
A VETERAN OF MANY BATTLES, MARDEN LED OUR HEROES UNTIL HE WAS CURSED AND PUT INTO A COMA BY ONE OF THE VILLAINS.
REEMI ALSHOND, HIGH WIZARD
CAREFREE REEMI WAS APPOINTED TO TAKE MARDEN'S PLACE AND THOUGH UNUSED TO SUCH A SERIOUS ROLE, SHE ACCEPTED.
LI YANG FEI, ACOLYTE HIGH
RELUCTANT TO FACE HER RESPONSIBILITIES AS PRINCESS REGENT, FEI LEFT KUNLUN TO JOIN OUR HEROES ON THEIR ADVENTURES.
FERIO STALLETSEN, BLACKSMITH
GENIUS FERIO IS THE CHIEF ARCHITECT FOR THE JUNO RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND HAS SURVIVED TWO ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS.
ENYO, SUPER NOVICE
A JILL-OF-ALL-TRADES, YOUNG ENYO IS ABLE TO WHIP OUT FROM HER CART A SOLUTION FOR ANY SITUATION.
VENDETTA, ALCHEMIST
VENDETTA WAS A LONER WHO DECIDED TO BECOME THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR HEROES AFTER RESCUING FEI.
VARGAS, PALADIN, TAMARA, PROFESSOR AND THEIR LEADER, KREIG VARAMAN, STALKER
THESE VILLAINS KIDNAPPED THE VALKYRIE SO THEY COULD TRANSCEND AS WELL. WITH THEIR NEW POWERS, THEY OVERWHELMED THE HEROES WHO HAD TO RETREAT.
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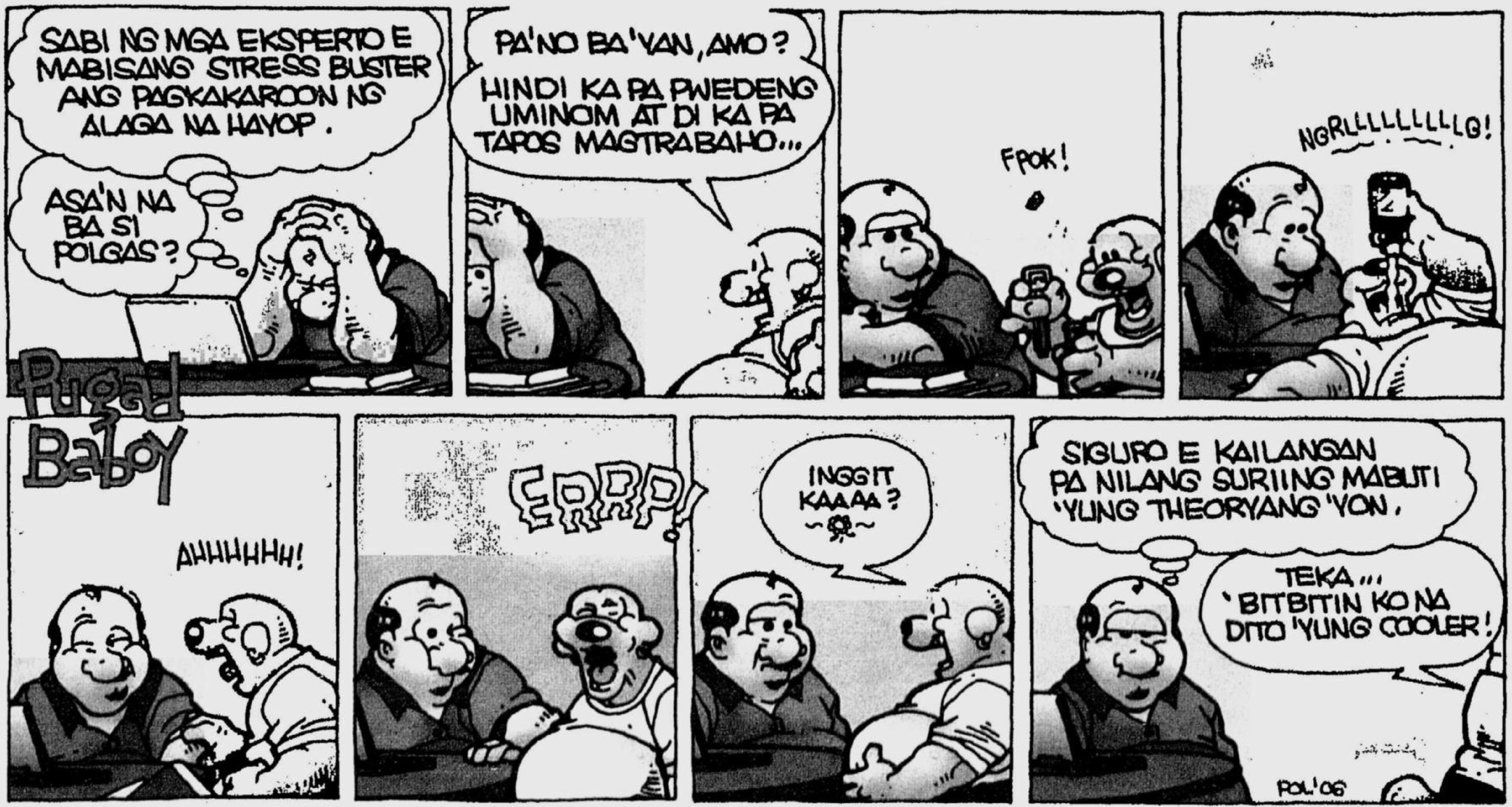
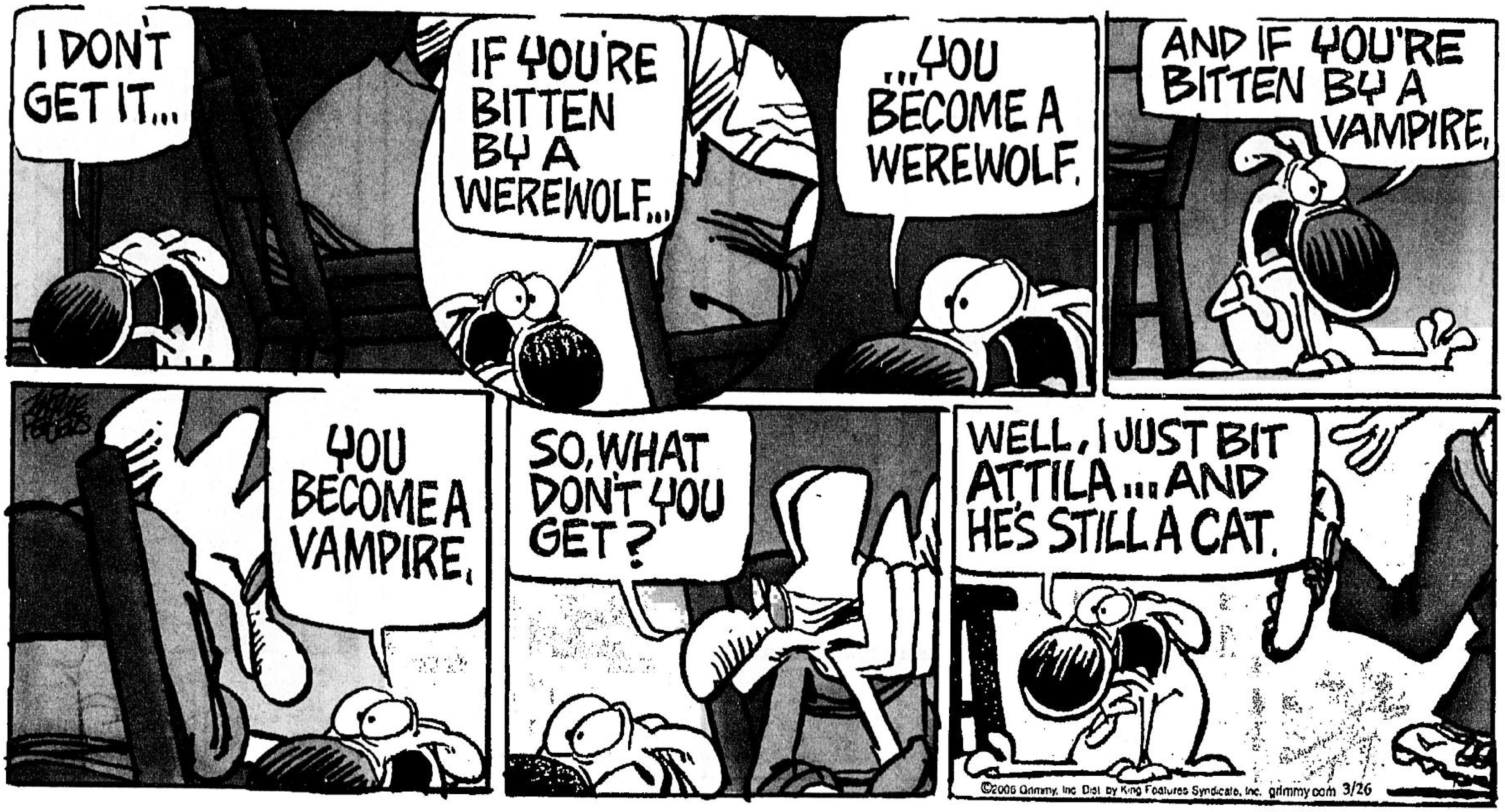
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


SABI NG MGA EKSPERTO E MABISANG STRESS BUSTER ANG PAGKAKAROON NG ALAGA NA HAYOP.
ASA'N NA BA SI POLGAS?
PA'NO BA 'YAN, AMO?
HINDI KA PA PWEDENG UMINOM AT DI KA PA TAPOS MAGTRABAHO...
FPOK!
NGRLLLLLLLLLLG!
Pugad Baboy
AHHHHHH!
ERRP!
INGGIT KAAAA?
SIGURO E KAILANGAN PA NILANG SURIING MABUTI 'YUNG THEORYANG 'YON.
TEKA... 'BITBITIN KO NA DITO 'YUNG COOLER!
POL '06

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I DON'T GET IT...
IF YOU'RE BITTEN BY A WEREWOLF...
...YOU BECOME A WEREWOLF.
AND IF YOU'RE BITTEN BY A VAMPIRE,
MIKE PETERS
YOU BECOME A VAMPIRE.
SO, WHAT DON'T YOU GET?
WELL, I JUST BIT ATTILA... AND HE'S STILL A CAT.

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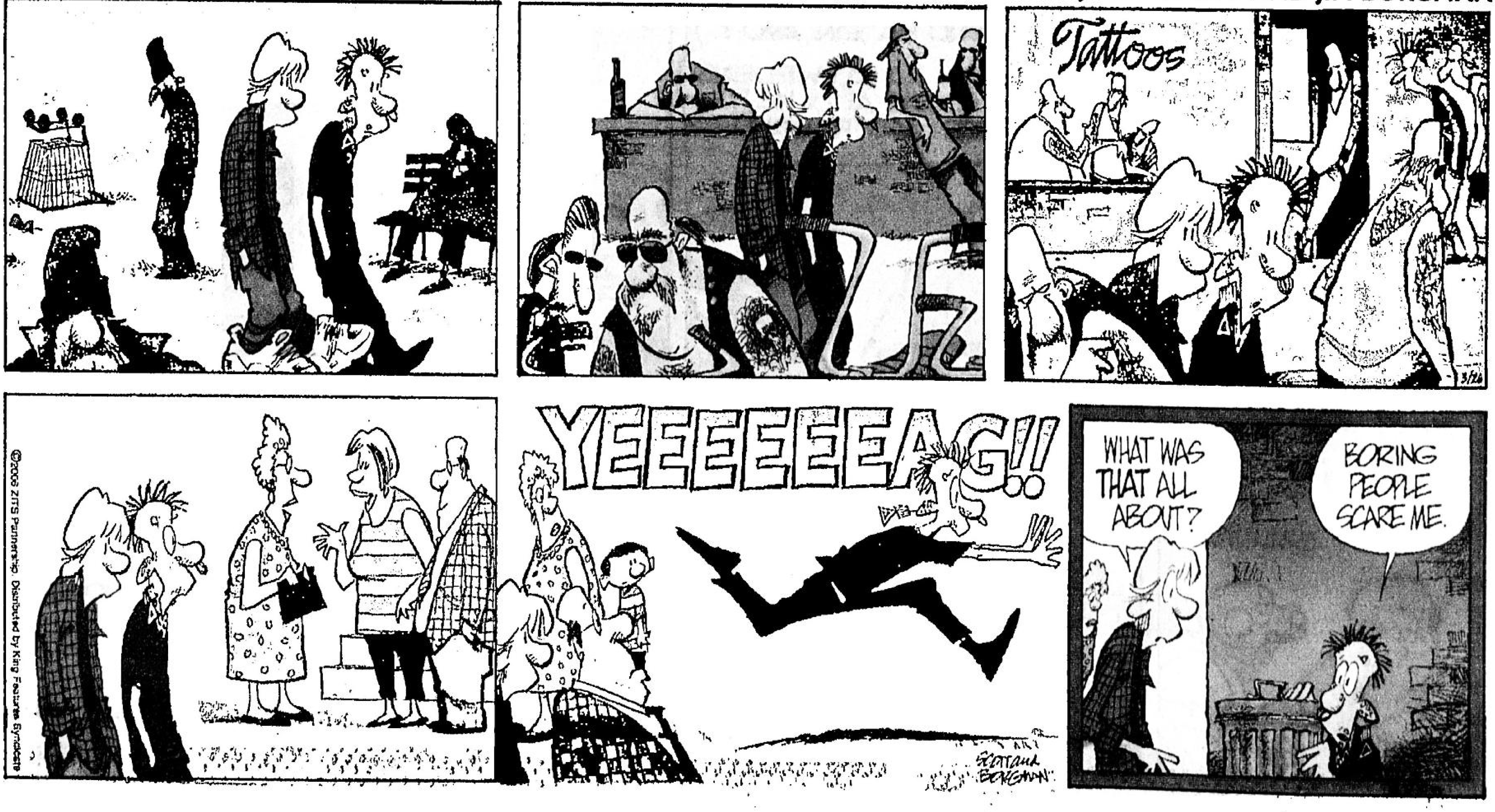
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


Tattoos
3/26
YEEEEEEEAG!!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
BORING PEOPLE SCARE ME.
SCOTT AND BORGMAN

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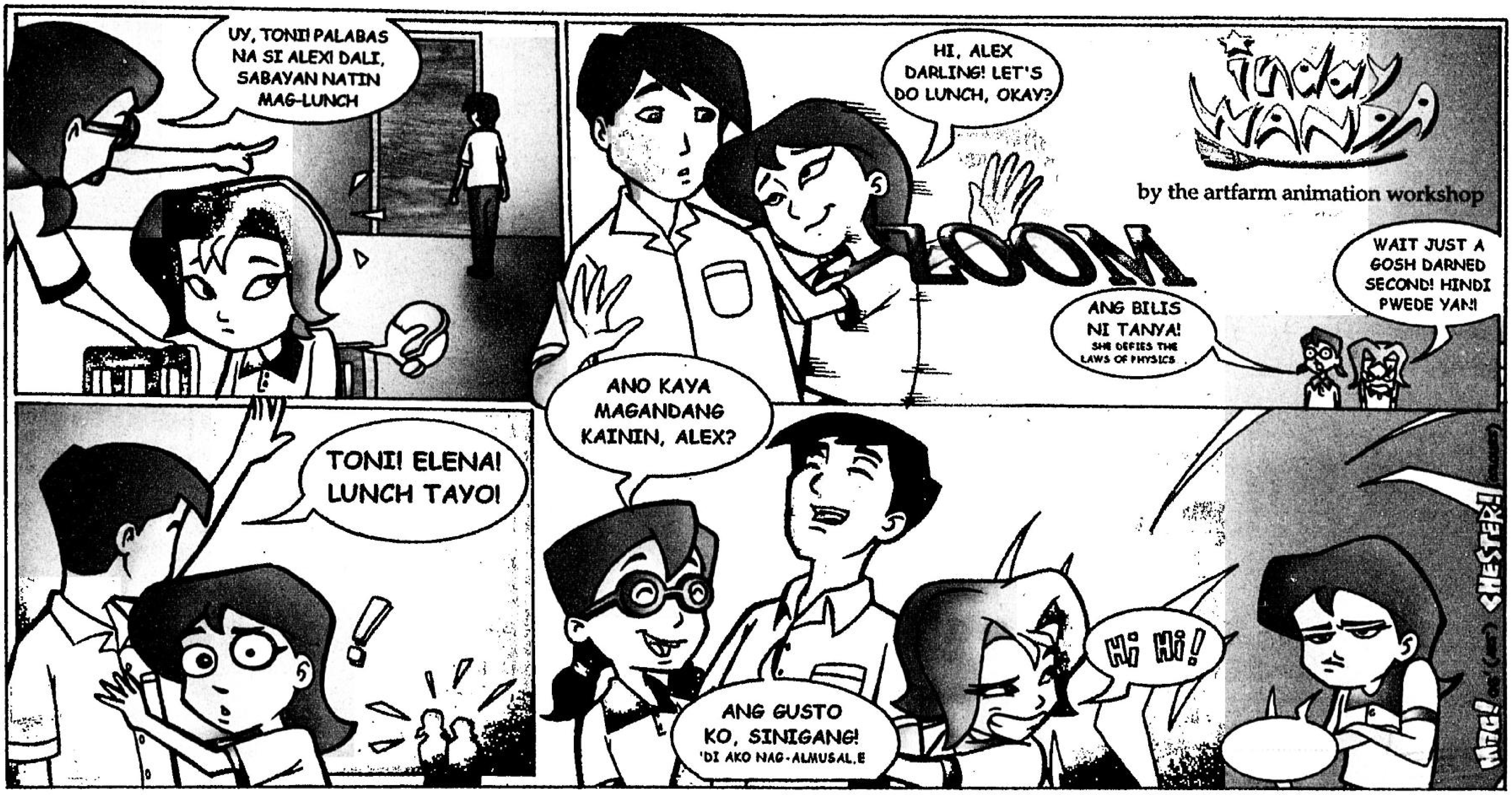
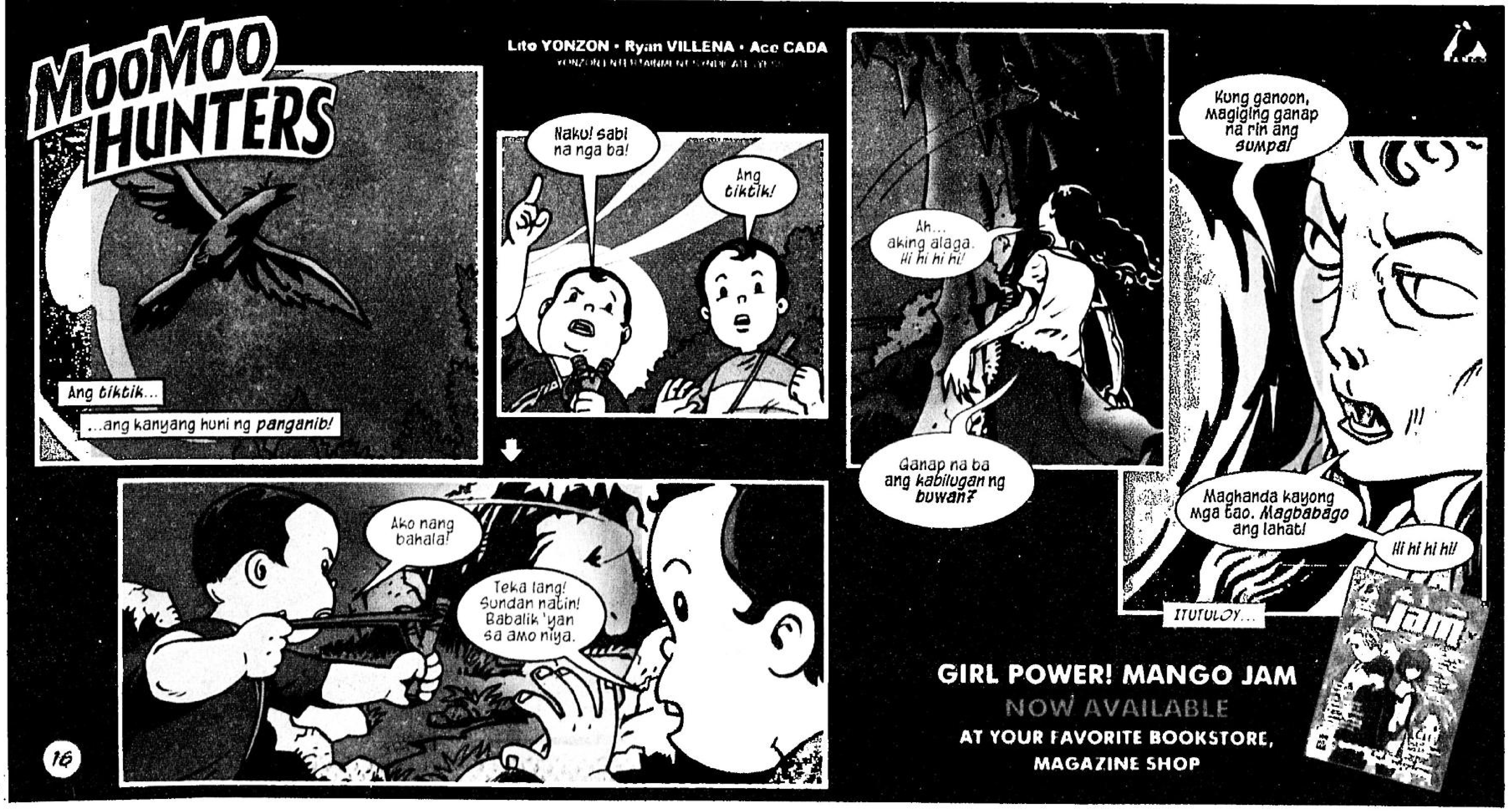
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


UY, TONI! PALABAS NA SI ALEX! DALI, SABAYAN NATIN MAG-LUNCH
HI, ALEX DARLING! LET'S DO LUNCH, OKAY?
Inday Wanda
by the artfarm animation workshop
ZOOM
WAIT JUST A GOSH DARNED SECOND! HINDI PWEDE YAN!
ANG BILIS NI TANYA! SHE DEFIES THE LAWS OF PHYSICS
TONI! ELENA! LUNCH TAYO!
ANO KAYA MAGANDANG KAININ, ALEX?
ANG GUSTO KO, SINIGANG! 'DI AKO NAG-ALMUSAL, E
Hi Hi!
CHESTER!

MOOMOO HUNTERS

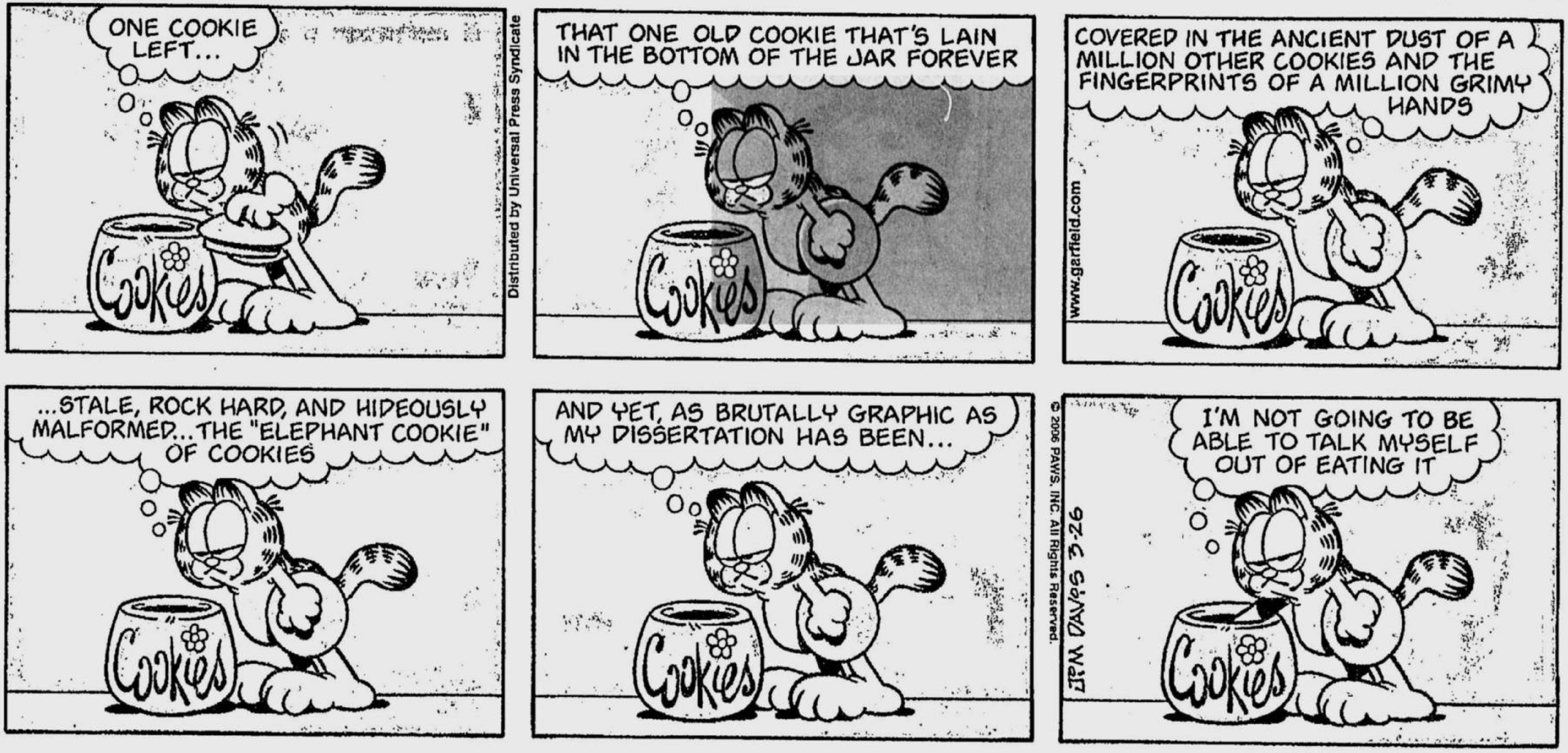
BY MANGO COMICS


MooMoo HUNTERS
Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA
Ang tiktik...
...ang kanyang huni ng panganib!
Nako! sabi na nga ba!
Ang tiktik!
Ako nang bahala!
Teka lang! Sundan natin! Babalik 'yan sa amo niya.
Ah... aking alaga. Hi hi hi hi!
Ganap na ba ang kabilugan ng buwan?
Kung ganoon, Magiging ganap na rin ang sumpa!
Maghanda kayong mga tao. Magbabago ang lahat!
Hi hi hi hi!
ITUTULOY...
16
Jam

GIRL POWER! MANGO JAM
NOW AVAILABLE
AT YOUR FAVORITE BOOKSTORE,
MAGAZINE SHOP

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


ONE COOKIE LEFT...
THAT ONE OLD COOKIE THAT'S LAIN IN THE BOTTOM OF THE JAR FOREVER
COVERED IN THE ANCIENT DUST OF A MILLION OTHER COOKIES AND THE FINGERPRINTS OF A MILLION GRIMY HANDS
...STALE, ROCK HARD, AND HIDEOUSLY MALFORMED...THE "ELEPHANT COOKIE" OF COOKIES
AND YET, AS BRUTALLY GRAPHIC AS MY DISSERTATION HAS BEEN...
I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO TALK MYSELF OUT OF EATING IT
Cookies
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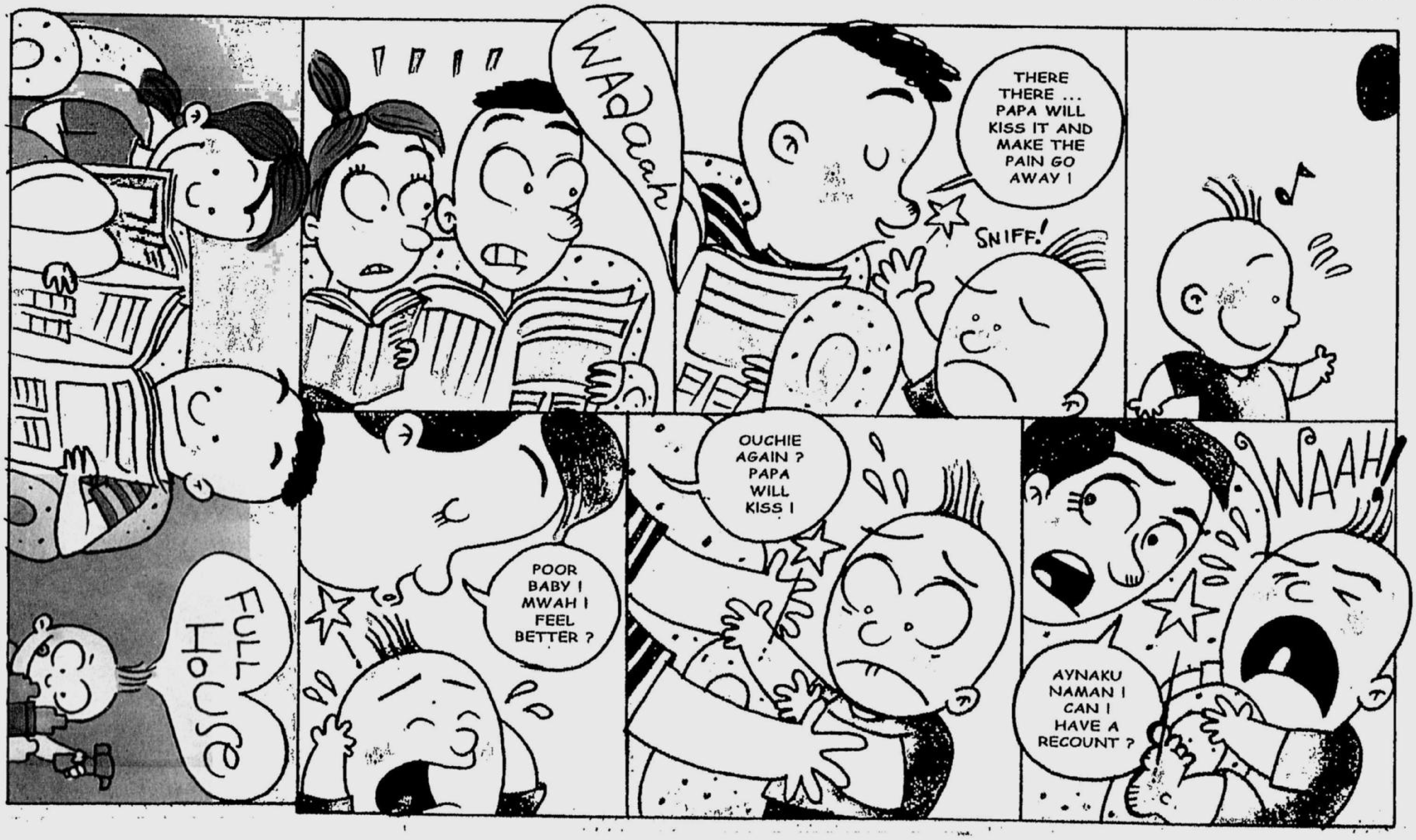
JPM DAVPS 3-26

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


FULL HOUSE
WAaah
THERE THERE ... PAPA WILL KISS IT AND MAKE THE PAIN GO AWAY !
SNIFF!
POOR BABY ! MWAH ! FEEL BETTER ?
OUCHIE AGAIN ? PAPA WILL KISS !
WAAH!
AYNAKU NAMAN ! CAN I HAVE A RECOUNT ?

March 26, 2006

sundayINQUIRERmagazine

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

Rep. Liza Maza

The teeming 'masa' transformed this former 'burgis' into a Congresswoman worthy of her name

by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
photographs by Joan Bondoc

Call her an accidental activist, but it took several detours before this Gabriela party list representative finally realized that a woman's place is in the House where, as one of the Batasan Five, she continues the struggle

To page 2

The Coun
Under My
GIOCONDA BELLI

Bob Aves and the 'kulintang', *p.3*

The little big guy, *p.4*

The reluctant heartthrob, *p.8*

Rep. Liza *...from page 1*

YES, that's her real name, her married name, Rep. Liza Largoza Maza says to skeptics who point to the almost cinematic aptness of her name to the sector she upholds as Gabriela Women's Party list representative in Congress.

But by her own admission, Maza used to be a flighty and imperious *burgis* (petty bourgeoisie) who would have nothing to do with the sweaty coil of student demonstrators during her college days at the University of the Philippines.

She was also so quiet as a child that her mother thought she was autistic, adds Maza with a laugh. She is, after all, one of the Batasan Five, party list representatives accused of rebellion for their vocal attacks on the Arroyo administration. Put under the protective custody of the House after the Philippine National Police vowed to arrest them even without a warrant, "housemates" Maza, Bayan Muna representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador, and Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano have been closeted in Congress since Feb. 27.

Being detained for *masa*-oriented sentiments was farthest from Maza's mind when she was growing up in an upper middle class household. "My father, Antonio, was from Tiaong, Quezon, while my mother Alberta, a businesswoman from Bulacan, owned a grocery store in San Pablo City, Laguna," says Maza, 48. They had land, rental apartments, a grocery and other properties. "We're 10 siblings, all of us professionals. There are two doctors, two teachers and a banker in the family, while the rest have their own businesses or professions," says this Business Economics graduate.

As part of the status quo, Maza did not take too kindly to the activists of the First Quarter Storm in the early '70s. "*Ang gugulo nila!*" (They were so rowdy!) was how she used to describe them. It took Free Press and Graphic Magazines to change her mind, so that by the time she entered UP in the mid-'70s, she had hoped to become an activist. But the extent of her being anti-establishment then was, at best, self-indulgent, says Maza.

Women's cause

"Everything came to a head when our dorm matron at UP threatened to expel me and a roommate from the Camia dorm for violating the curfew regulation and for going around the dorm in our nightgown. She said she wanted to talk to our parents. *Ano kami, bata?*" she recounts. Incensed, the two approached then Student Affairs dean Armando Malay, who successfully interceded for them. Maza's complaint stirred up a virtual rebellion against the unpopular dorm matron, and her reputation as an agit-prop expert was made. From there, it was but a short step to the University Alliance which regularly visited depressed communities in Tondo. It was there that Maza saw another world vastly different from her comfortable background. After graduation, she worked as a researcher and later taught at the St. Scholastica's College.

But Maza wasn't quite ready to join the women's movement, she had told then Gabriela official Nelia Sancho when the former beauty queen-activist tried to recruit her. "I come from a family of strong women and we never felt oppressed. My mother even single-handedly sent her siblings through school when they were orphaned. I also felt then that the women's cause was too soft," she recalls.

Things started to change after the assassination of Sen. Ninoy Aquino in 1983. Overnight, rallies supporting the Aquino widow bloomed in the streets, with Maza among the thousands of women marching. "That was when I met women from urban poor communities and heard about their oppression as women. I'd listen as they spoke of rushing through their work and their chores to attend the rallies and how they had to hurry back home because the children had been left alone."

A research project among overseas Filipino workers in Hong Kong convinced her further of the gender dimension of oppression. "I interviewed domestic helpers and uncovered stories of rape, sexual abuse and maltreatment," Maza says of her stay in the former British colony in the 1980s. One account she could not forget was that of a former teacher who needed money so badly, she agreed to a sort of "retail" sexual harassment. "First, she agreed to let her employer hold her hand for which she got a raise. Then she allowed him to caress her arms and shoulders; again a raise. From there, he progressed to her breasts, one at a time... and all along, she calmed her disgust with thoughts of how the money could help her family back home."

Her own experiences as a survivor of similar sexual harassment incidents prodded Maza to become actively involved in women's issues in the late 1980s. "I know how these are unwanted acts and how a woman's first reaction is just to freeze. I vowed then to fight for a society free from all forms of violence against women," she says.

Back to work: Maza's days have settled into routine after the fuss over their House arrest

In 2001, Maza was tapped to represent women as one of the party list candidates of Bayan Muna. The party won handily. Since then, she has taken up the cause of Filipino women as the principal author of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 and the co-author of the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act of 2004. She has also stirred up debates with such controversial bills as one legalizing divorce, another advocating reproductive health rights, and still another batting for equal sanctions between men and women when it comes to marital infidelity.

Public debates

"Our role is not just to pass laws, but also to challenge the very foundation of mainstream and traditional thinking by engaging in public debates," she says. This is why she was so aghast with President Arroyo's declaration of 1017 that put the country under emergency rule and allowed warrantless arrests, says Maza.

"1017 is political persecution of the Left," she says. "It puts into question the party list law whose objective is to give space to marginalized sectors. It also tests the sincerity of the system in giving us space in the free marketplace of ideas. It raises the question 'are we really ready for free and progressive discourse?' "

Apparently not, if her near-arrest on March 6 were any indication.

"We were warned that we'd be arrested once we stepped out of Congress," Maza says of the Batasan Five. But on that day, she had to attend a bicameral conference on the Juvenile Justice bill at the Senate. As one of the bill's principal authors, she said she wanted to argue for the merits of placing minor offenders 15 years and below under the care of the Social Welfare department. "As things stand, young offenders are put in jail with hardened criminals even when they're as young as 7!"

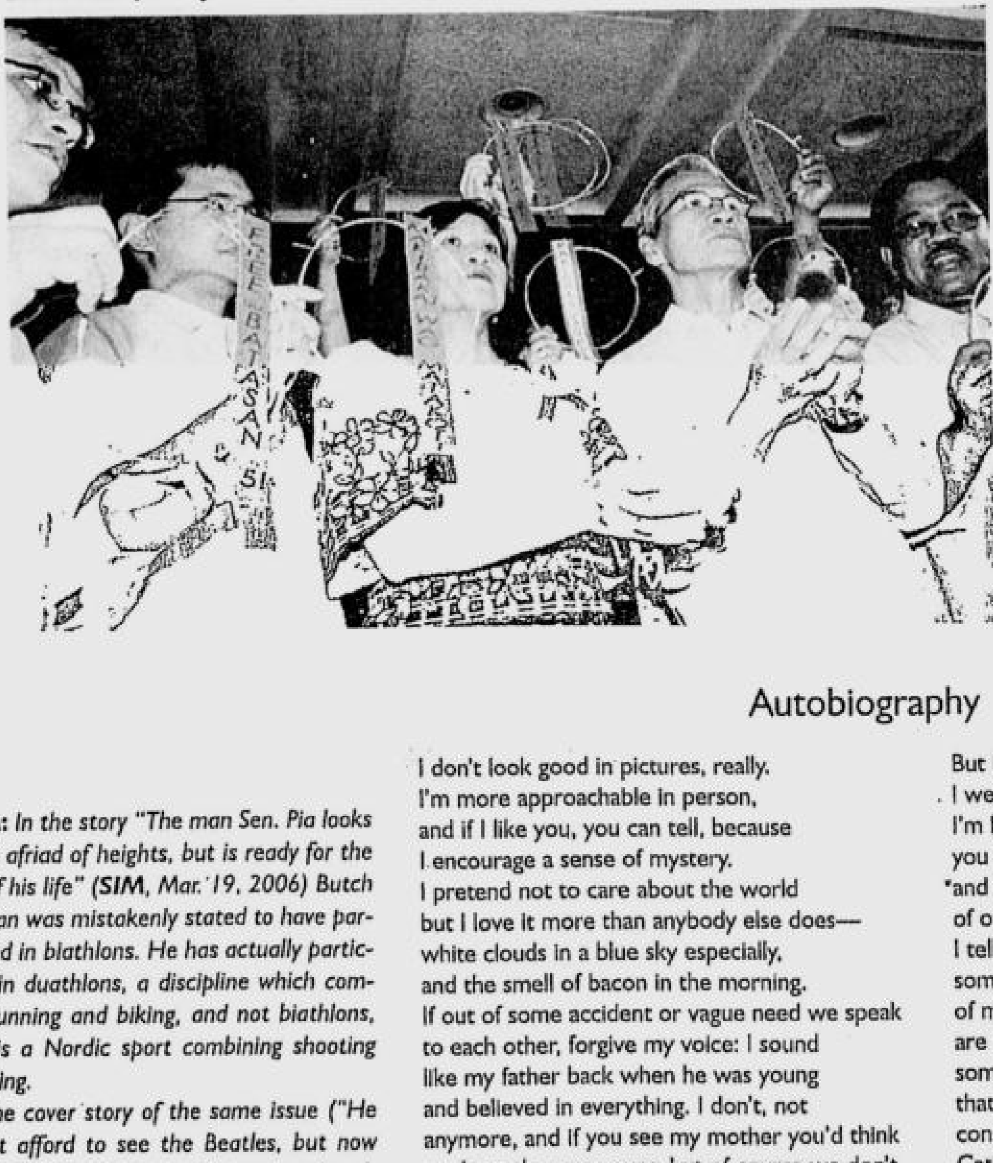
A House resolution questioning her arrest without any preliminary investigation however prevented her arrest, and so did her formidable chaperones to the Senate: Representatives Cynthia Villar, Joel Villanueva, Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, Timmy Chipeco, Gilbert Remulla, Mayong Aguho, and Rene Magtubo. The group's convoy from the House was composed of 30 cars. The Senate provided her security going back.

"After all, I was only performing my responsibility as an elected official of the land," says Maza.

But there was little she could do on March 8, celebrated world-wide as International Women's Day, when she had to stay put at the House instead of marching with the other women. It's something that she has done every March 8 since 1987, and what she missed most during her House arrest, says Maza. She also misses her two sons, aged 21 and 15, who can only visit her on weekends.

Except for those emotional contretemps, Maza continues her advocacy for women with the same zeal as perhaps only a former street activist can muster and maintain.

United they stand: Maza (center) with Batasan Five comrades Reps. Joel Virador, Teddy Casiño, Satur Ocampo and Rafael Mariano



"She's doing a very good job," says Las Piñas representative Cynthia Villar of her colleague. "She always takes charge of all photo exhibits and cultural activities for the Women's Month and any other event that seeks to promote consciousness and responsiveness to the cause of improving the quality of life among Filipino women."

A firm stand

Villar also approves of Maza's performance as a legislator. "A legislator's performance may be measured in two ways: the projects they are able to deliver to constituents, and their ability to take a firm stand on issues they consider vital to the integrity of our nation." Maza, she says, has made a "positive contribution" through the second option.

Meanwhile, life inside the House for this women's representative has settled into routine past the 20th day: up at 6 a.m., yoga, then breakfast. This morning, the fare was eggs, *dilis*, plain rice, coffee and corned beef with potatoes. Then Maza reads the papers and does her ablutions. By 9, she's at her office for a series of radio interviews. "I eat interviews for breakfast," she says, smiling. Sessions start at 10 and can last until 10 p.m. By 11, she treks off to the conference room where she and the rest of the Batasan Five sleep, some with their families.

Maza, who has never been detained even during martial law, finds it ironic that her first and only jailer would be another woman, "who put the supremacy of the police and military above that of an elected branch of government." The situation seems to put into question a favorite issue among women advocates: that of putting more women in governance.

"But the case of GMA and former President Aquino shows that the issue of women in politics goes beyond gender," says Maza. "Politics is an interplay of forces and that includes the background of the candidate. Both Cory and GMA come from elite, privileged backgrounds. We also need to look at their motive for running. Are they governing with the interest of the people at heart?"

She continues: "We're here to connect the government with the people. Under traditional politics, the voters are forgotten until the next election. But under the party list system, there's constant consultation with our constituents on what agenda to push. We can't leave the people's movement outside the halls of Congress. That's how we avoid being co-opted by the system."

Personal pursuits

Although her days are filled with visitors ("Mostly mothers from the communities"), press conferences, interviews, and endless bills to study, Maza has found time and space for personal pursuits inside the confines of her gilded cage.

"I can't live without books," she says, waving a copy of Gioconda Belli's "The Country Under My Skin," her current leisure reading. There are also volumes by Paolo Coelho, Isabel Allende and poetry by Pablo Neruda. There are music tapes galore on her desk—from classical to rock, and they help fight the ennui of the sameness of days. At times, she imagines herself back in her kitchen, whipping up her specialty dish: *kaldereta*. "I also miss my cats," she reveals. "Right now, we have 12!"

But despite the deprivations of her House arrest, Maza says she has no regrets. "*Wala akong masyadong* angst. I want to be a perennial student so that whatever mistakes I make, I can treat as lessons learned." She adds: "I'm a very positive person. If I were not such a positivist, I doubt if I'd survive the negative things happening to our country."

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Errata: *In the story "The man Sen. Pia looks up to is afriad of heights, but is ready for the climb of his life" (SIM, Mar. 19, 2006) Butch Sebastian was mistakenly stated to have participated in biathlons. He has actually participated in duathlons, a discipline which combines running and biking, and not biathlons, which is a Nordic sport combining shooting and skiing.*

In the cover story of the same issue ("He couldn't afford to see the Beatles, but now he's raking it in, bringing Filipinos on the ultimate trip—nostalgia"), we inadvertently omitted the credits. The story was written by Eric S. Caruncho, with photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento. SIM regrets the errors.

Autobiography

I don't look good in pictures, really.
I'm more approachable in person,
and if I like you, you can tell, because
I encourage a sense of mystery.
I pretend not to care about the world
but I love it more than anybody else does—
white clouds in a blue sky especially,
and the smell of bacon in the morning.
If out of some accident or vague need we speak
to each other, forgive my voice: I sound
like my father back when he was young
and believed in everything. I don't, not
anymore, and if you see my mother you'd think
we have the same eyes, but of course we don't
see the same things. Yes, I'm a hit with the girls,
but the kind who are greasy and cryptic, their thick
glasses misted, their practical idea of happiness
as complex as third-degree differential equations.
What I want is to simply risk distance: two voices
traveling to each other before they disappear.
But I am—don't mistake it—a modern man.
I wear my grief everywhere and I'm fragmented.
I'm hard to understand. My sexual life is so fantastic
you would denounce me in public with your left hand,
and with your right, usher me into the secret pleasures
of our brotherhood. Which is not to say
I tell the truth all the time. I lie for my own good;
sometimes I say, God exists, and I'm aware
of my pretensions. I'm aware that some truths
are not necessarily true. Sometimes I do it to survive,
sometimes out of mood. If you see me, know
that I subscribe to social etiquette, and will not
consent to marriage without trial sex or a kiss. I grew up
Catholic, of course. My nieces are all nuns. If you ever
meet me, I'm the one who will not notice you
because you are beautiful. I'm the one in a corner with
the tortured look. I'm the one smelling the flowers.

Arkaye Kierulf

Music Makers

by Eric S. Caruncho

How Bob Aves discovered the kulintang and translated its 'car body shop' sounds into his own distinctive music

N theory, combining indigenous tribal music with modern pop sounds like a good idea, "*sariling atin*" and all that.

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Ever since Asin introduced the sound of the kulintang in "*Ang Bayan Kong Sinilangan*" way back in the late 1970s, Pinoy musicians have been trying to get back to their pre-colonial roots, with varying degrees of success.

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Aves' initial reaction was understandable. Born and raised in Bacolod, he had studied for two years at the UP College of Music in Diliman before enrolling in the Berklee College of Music in Boston, which is to jazz what Juilliard is to classical music, a Mecca for serious musos.

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Frustrated by the local jazz scene, Aves retreated to the studio, where he earned his bread and butter as a much sought after musical arranger. In 1990, he even had a hit, of sorts, in the radio single "Amoni," which received heavy airplay on the CityLite FM station.

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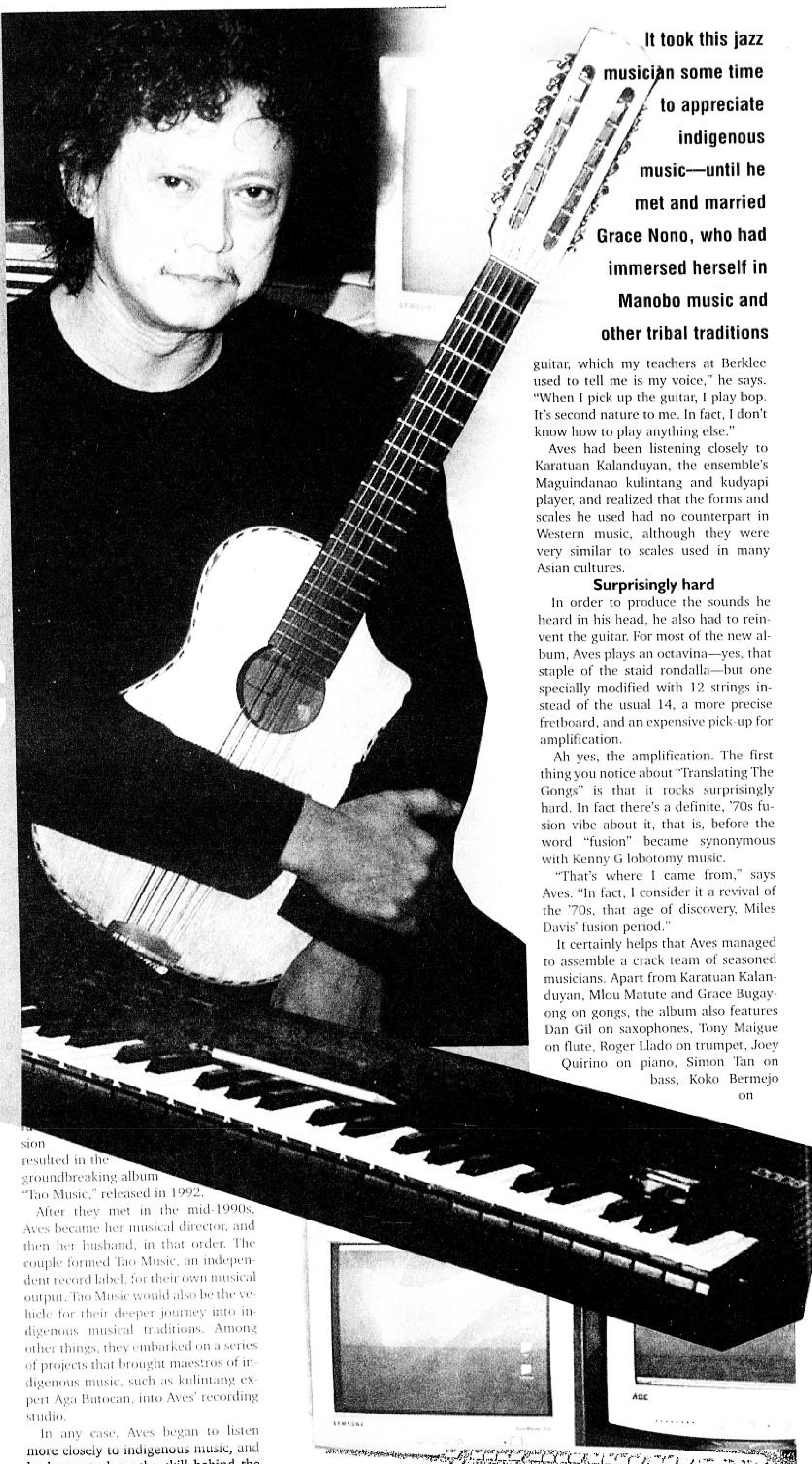
Anyway, steeped as he was in the Western musical tradition, Aves couldn't be further away from indigenous Philippine tribal music.

That is, until he met Grace Nono.

Although she had fronted the Blank, a Baguio-based rock'n'roll band, the Agusan del Sur-born Nono had begun to immerse herself in the musical traditions of the Manobo and the other tribal cultures of Mindanao. Her initial experiments in tribal



RUDY ESPERAS

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Although they seldom get to perform locally, Nono's ensemble is much in demand in the international world music festival circuit, where interaction with similar groups from other countries adds a further global dimension to their sound.

But Nono's ensemble is a worldbeat fusion group. As musical director, Aves has to keep his own musical impulses subordinate to Nono's vision. In order to get his jazz kicks, Aves had to turn elsewhere.

In 2000, he recorded and released his first album, titled "Inner Country," which reflected his initial attempts to fuse indigenous musical influences with jazz. In hindsight, he considers it a transitional work, done before his own immersion in indigenous music began to bear fruit.

Filipino coloring

"It was about 80 percent American jazz, plus 20 percent indigenous Filipino coloring," he says.

He is obviously much more satisfied with his current album, "Translating The Gongs," which he launched without much fanfare at the 1st Philippine Jazz Festival last January.

"Most people think you don't need to study ethnic music," says Aves. "Just play the kulintang, and that's it. That was how I thought when I started, too. But the indigenous musicians kept telling me, 'You're using our instruments, but you don't bother to learn the pieces that were meant to be played on them.'

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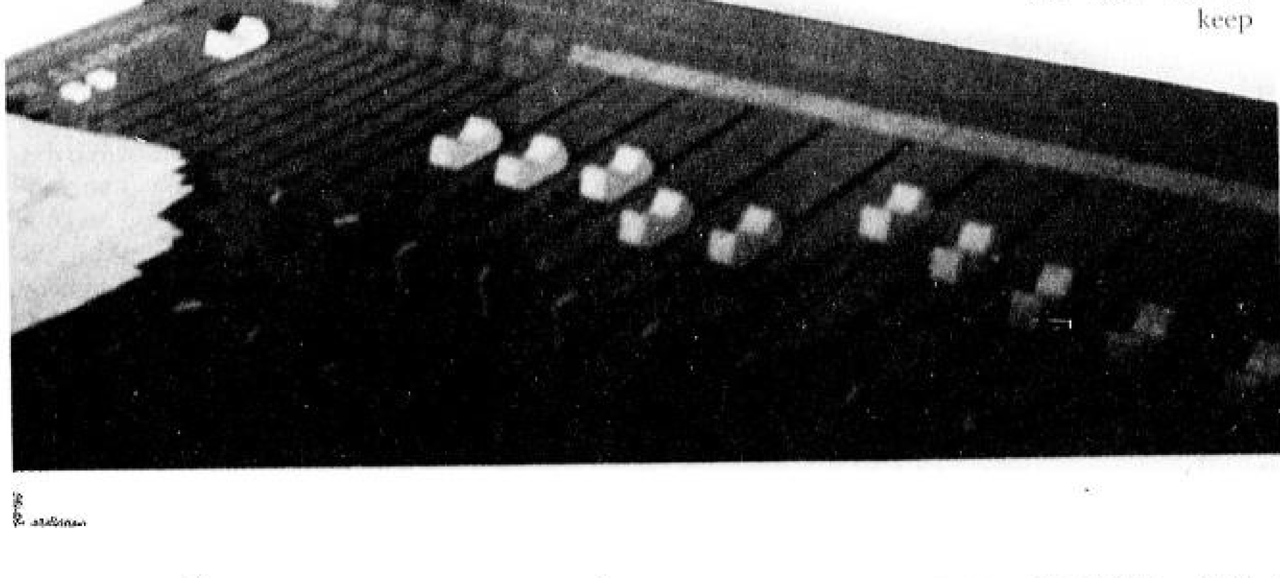
For Aves, it's all part of a process of musical maturity, which ran parallel to his own maturation. The deeper he got into indigenous musical traditions, he realized, the more unique his own music became.

"Everything became clearer when I turned 50," he says. "All the things I had learned started to come together." Q



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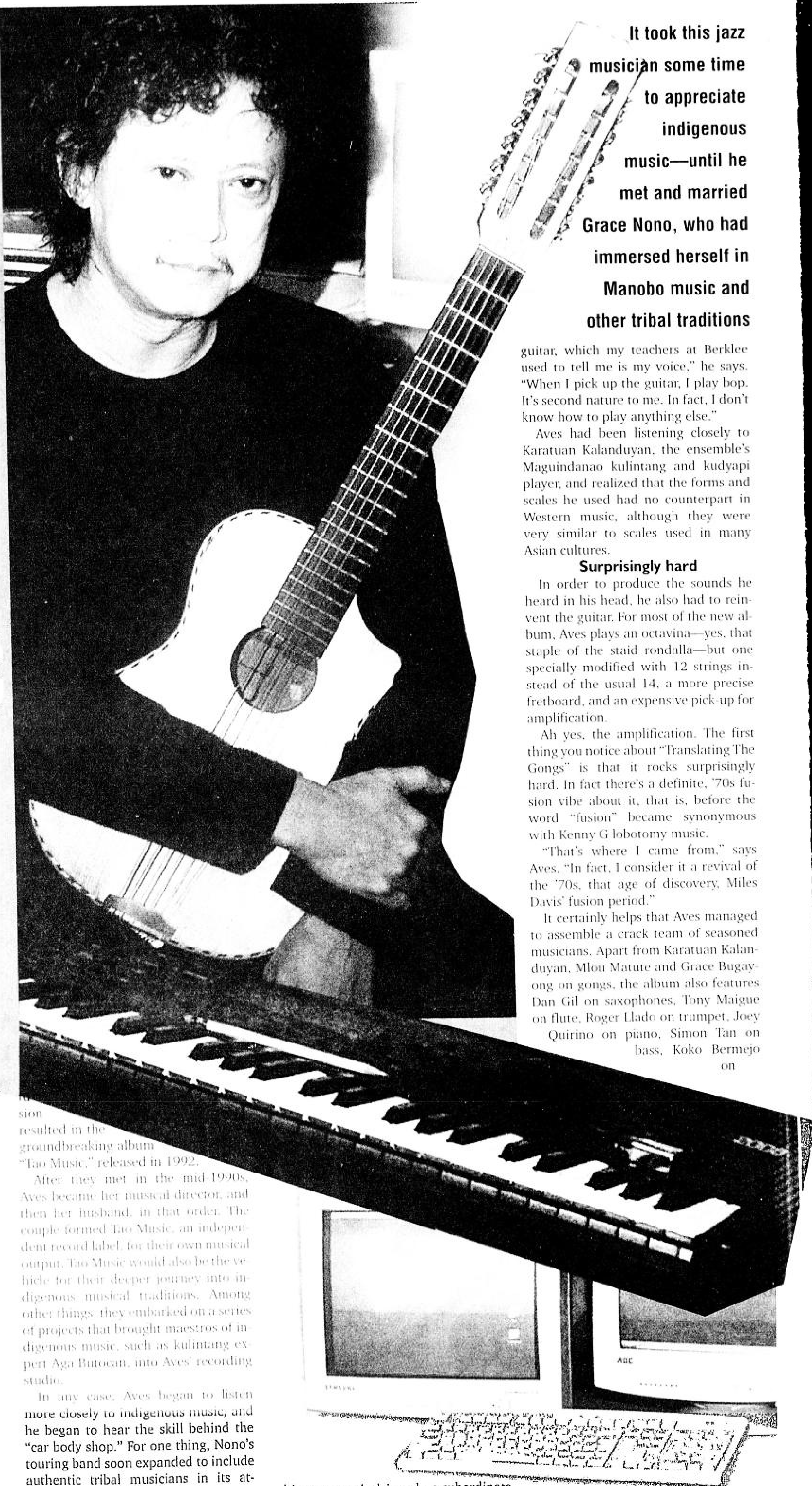
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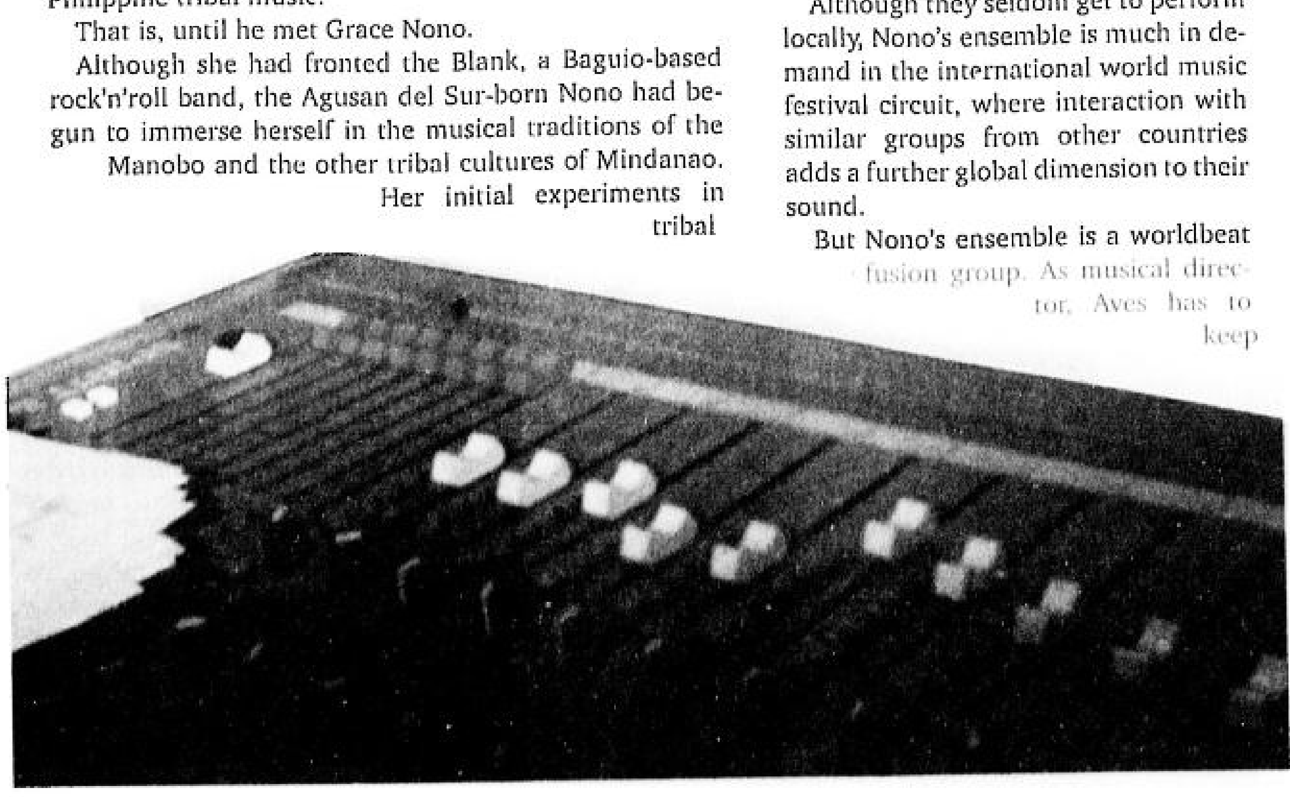

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Little Lives

A small guy who lives big time

He may have been born a dwarf, but events planner and certified party animal Jayjay Malixi has proven that he's got a bigger heart than that of most people twice his size

by Alya B. Honasan

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

HERE are people you know who do one big heroic thing, and they're remembered forever. And then, there are those whose entire lives are lived in defiance of what would have seemed like a huge burden and a limiting handicap. It's only later that you realize what extraordinary human beings they really are.

When I first met my friend Jayjay Malixi over 20 years ago, we were in college, and my friends were helping out with the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) at the La Salle Greenhills gym. That first time, like it probably was with many other people, I wasn't sure what to do. Here were these laughing, talking La Sallites, and right there amidst them, a little man. Little, because Jayjay is a dwarf, a person with achondroplasia, a condition characterized by abnormally shortened appendages. Jayjay was—and still is—only about four feet five inches tall, but I immediately relaxed when I took my cue from everyone around him.

Nobody gave Jayjay special treatment, even joking about him to his face, in a manner so politically incorrect that it was really funny. "When it comes from friends, I know it's just affectionate, so I don't mind it at all," Jayjay says of the ribbing. "In fact, I credit my friends for my attitude. I chose the right friends—and they never, ever treated me differently."

Not only does Jayjay blend in; he stands out for a hundred other reasons than his appearance. He is outgoing and funny, an experienced events planner who also does a lot of charity work pro bono, and has a social life that would make any regular-sized person's head spin. He smokes like a chimney, drinks like a fish, has no qualms about shimmying on any dance floor, and has pulled together everything from weddings to concerts. "It's both a living and a lifestyle," he says. "And no, I'm not sociable because I'm trying to compensate for something. I've seen that in other people, and it doesn't look good. We all have hang-ups, but it's all up to us how to handle them."

Joseph James Marquez Malixi learned how to carry himself from his family. He was born in 1966, the youngest of six children of Do Malixi, a San Miguel Corporation executive, and Josie Marquez, a professor of pharmacy and an administrator at the University of the Philippines. Nobody knew for sure what caused Jayjay's condition; it could have been genetics, a congenital problem, or some medication his mother took, as she was already 40 when Jayjay was born. Whatever the reason, one thing was for sure: his family decided early on not to shield him from reality.

No tiptoeing

Jayjay's first realization that he was different came in pre-school, when he asked his mom, "Why do I always have to wear long pants when everyone else is in shorts?" His mom told him matter-of-factly that his knees had to be protected, because of his short legs. Another time, a boy in grade school at the Ateneo would taunt Jayjay almost daily, calling him "*unano!* (dwarf)" When Josie heard it one day, she approached the boy, asked his name, and said very calmly, "My son's name is not *unano*. It's Jayjay."

At home, there was no tiptoeing around Jayjay. He was so free from evident insecurities, he was once accused of being the bully when he defended himself against a bigger brat. "I was Grade 3, and I was assigned to erase the blackboard, but a classmate kept writing on it—so I hit him on the face with an eraser!" Jayjay recounts. The agitator turned out to be a crybaby. "When I told my mom, she just laughed."

While dad Do would be content to sit quietly in the background, silently supportive, it was Josie who, Jayjay says, helped make him strong. "I never questioned God about my condition, because my mom explained it to me long ago." God gives us different attributes, Josie would tell her son; we excel in certain areas, and are not so good in others. But how we manage what we have is up to us. It's the same explanation Jayjay gave his nephew when the boy first asked his uncle about his unchanging size. "My mom would always tell me about the late Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Secretary General of the United Nations, Carlos P. Romulo, and how he felt about moving among giants." The diminutive Romulo would say, "I feel like a dime among nickels." The American dime may be smaller and lighter than the nickel, but it is certainly worth more.

In grade school, Jayjay was an active member of the Ateneo Children's Theater, and appeared onstage in a production of "Grease." He even trained with the swimming team. He moved to La Salle Greenhills for high school, and was also part of the theater group Cue. "Ateneo gave me the foundation for my values, and La Salle strengthened and reinforced my character," he says. "In both schools, I was very happy, and nobody treated me special. I guess I got the best of both worlds." Jayjay has been a director and vice president for external affairs of the La Salle Greenhills Alumni Association for the last three years. He is also actively involved in the school's Search-In retreats. When Josie would corner Jayjay's friends and ask them what they thought her son's best skills were, the answer was unanimous: "It's his PR, *tita*. He has great PR!"

Simple fear

In college at the UP—his mom never lifted a finger to get Jayjay or any of her children into the state university, Jayjay notes—it was a simple fear of taking board exams that changed Jayjay's mind about becoming an architect. Instead, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts, majoring in visual communication and advertising. He worked as an artist for an advertising agency for a while before getting into a field he really liked, doing marketing and line producing for concerts of local and foreign acts like Sting, Michael Jackson and Diana Ross.

Jayjay remembers how crew members were not allowed to interact with the stars. Then, one day backstage, one rock superstar called Jayjay and asked him, "Do you know where Pegasus is?" and proceeded to engage him in conversation. After years of helping produce his concerts, Jayjay is a buddy to La Sallian Gary Valenciano. In fact, one can't go on a night out with Jayjay without being accosted by acquaintances, including girls who shower him with hugs and kisses. "Oh God, I don't remember her name!" he would later whisper in a mild panic.

Until his early college years, Jayjay says he would have bouts of depression, wishing there were some things he could do for himself, like drive a car. "But now that I'm older, I've accepted it. Once, when I was about 20, my parents took me to visit my former neurologist, who informed us that there were treatments available now for my condition. My mother looked at me, and all I said was, 'Why *pa?* I think my friends will always be my friends now, no matter what size I am."

Free spirit

He has fallen in love in the past, Jayjay admits, and even went so far as giving girls flowers when he was in grade school and high school. "But I'm also realistic. I could be okay with another person, but what would her family say? Plus, maybe it's really my personality. I don't think I would make a good partner, because I have so many friends and I'm too much of a free spirit. I don't like sitting still."

Although he has learned to live with the curious looks, Jayjay is still wont to stare back at rude onlookers, or ask, "Is there a problem?" He says, "I can understand kids who stare at me, that's their nature. What I hate is when I see mothers who actually nudge their children to look at me! They're the ones who should be embarrassed about their attitude." Either way, Jayjay says, he doesn't need to defend himself very much, as it's often his friends who take up the cudgels for him. As he walks confidently past whispering people in a mall or a bar, the friends trailing behind him are the ones who usually catch onlookers in the act, accosting them with a curt "What are you laughing at?"

He's been barred from amusement park rides in the States because his feet doesn't touch the ground, and he has been rejected as a blood donor. But he has taken it all in stride.

Jayjay doesn't have any close friends like him—not by choice, but because that's the way it turned out. "I don't like it when people say I should hang out with other people like me just because we have the same condition, though," he says. "I'd rather be integrated into normal life." When people who don't know him still attempt to do things for him, Jayjay just says, "I can do it," quietly and with little fuss. But when he does need help, he says so. "If it's my friends, I can just yell, '*Hoy! Paki-abot naman!* (Hand that over!)," he says with a chuckle.

Nowadays, when he's not overweight, Jayjay can still buy his clothes in the children's department, although his shoes are a regular men's size 7 ½. His doctor advised him to lose weight once, when the excess poundage caused his joints to hurt. Otherwise, like every other person, he wishes he could get more exercise and quit his bad habits. "*Hay naku*, my resistance is going down."

Tenacious

Jayjay lost his father in 1993 and his mother in 2001, and now lives with his very supportive siblings. He is the bossy little *mayordomo* at home, hiring and firing personnel, doing the groceries, planning the menus and overseeing renovations. During parties at his house, Jayjay is the consummate host to a never-ending stream of guests. Although friends sometimes encourage him to get a car custom-fitted so he can drive, Jayjay is now content relying on the family driver or hitching with friends.

People can't seem to get enough of Jayjay, though, and I'm glad to say he's a lovable part of my own circle of friends. My friend Maite, his bosom buddy, calls him "a tenacious friend, who's always there when you need someone to defend you or be with you."

At the wedding of my friend Bunny in 2001, where he was coordinator, we joked about tying a balloon to him so we could spot him in the crowd. For my 40th birthday party at home, we warned him to keep away from our big dogs, or they might bury him in the ground. We have plans to drag him to Boracay, or bring him to Donsol to swim with the whale sharks. Maite is already planning a big all-nighter for Jayjay's own 40th birthday in September, disco balls and all. Jayjay is certainly looking forward to it. "I feel like my life is about to begin!"

He's certainly lived the first part of it better than most people I know. ◻

Poetry

Isa

May sarili sa loob ng aking katawan.
Nakapagitan ang balat sa espasyo
at sa sariling nais kong maramdaman.
May mga sandaling lumalabas
ang aking sarili; naglalakbay,
dinadama ang malaking puwang na inilaan
sa kanya, inuulinig ang pintig
ng lupang may nakalatag na digmaan,
dinadalaw ang mga kaibigang
nangibang-bayan, at tinitipon nang buong
ingat ang mga alaala. Babalik din
siya pagkaraan. Hapung-hapo.
Isasalansan niya ang lahat sa loob
ng isang kapirasong silid. Aayusin niya
ang mga ito, ayon sa bigat at gaan,
sa lapit at layo ng bawat talinghagang
kanyang inusal at ng mga taong lumisan.
Walang pagkalustay ang lahat ng bagay.
Ang lahat ay buo ang pag-iral sa tuwing
babalikan niya ang mga ito sa gunita.
May kanyang sarili ang sarili
sa aking katawan na di ko madidiktahan.

Ngayon, habang magkapantay
ang aking mga paa at dinadama ang ligasgas
ng unang kapapalit lang ng punda,
alam kong nasa sa aking katawan
ang aking sarili, isang munti't
napakalapit na silid na nais kong buksan.
Nadarama ko ang paghigpit ng kanyang
pagkakakapit sa tuwing bibilangin
ko ang mga lumipas na taon
na kapwa kami mag-isa
at naghahanap ng makakasama.

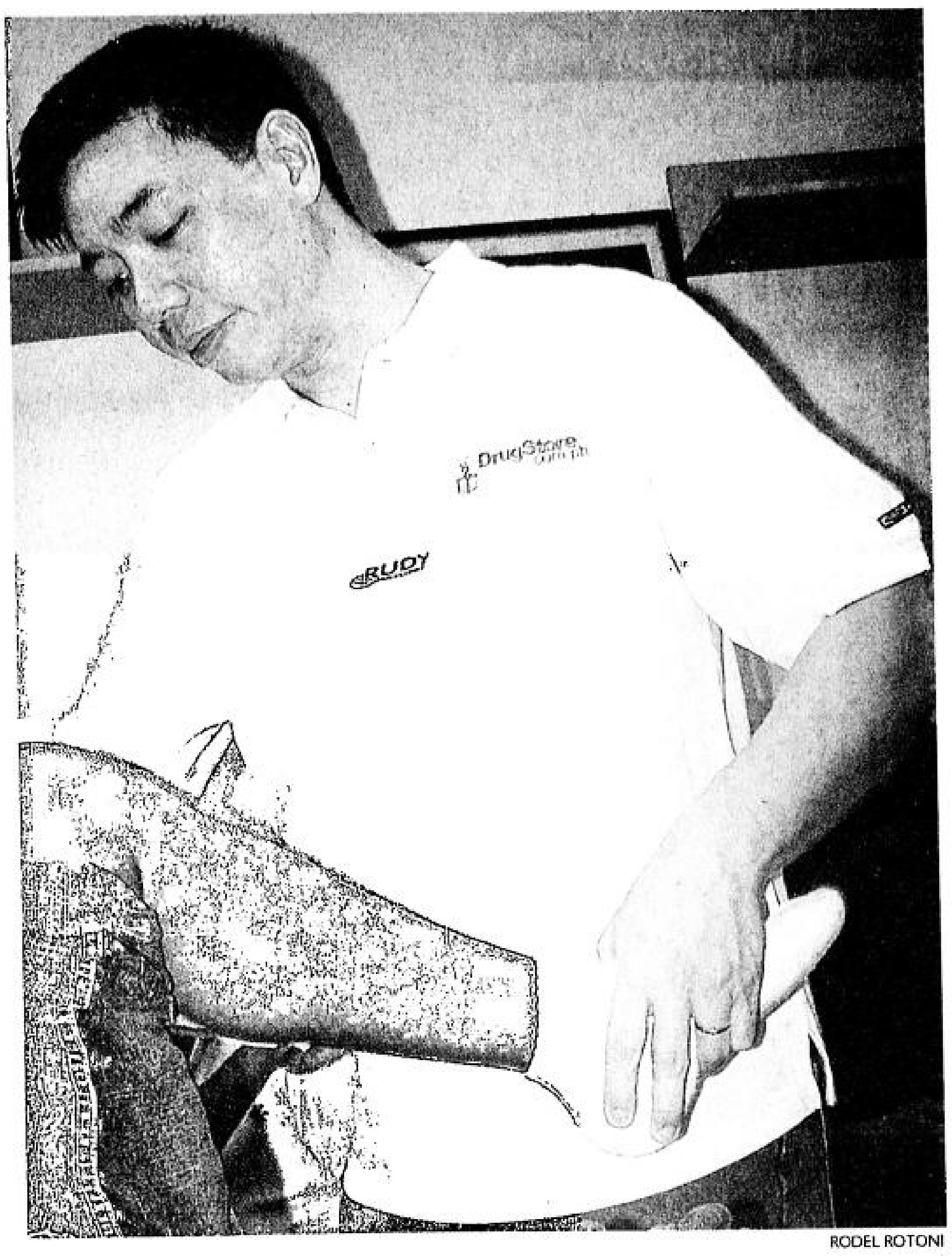
Genaro R. Gojo Cruz

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

by Jasmine W. Payo

This Jaworski wannabe traded his jersey for a lab gown and now runs a sports clinic for free

Dr. Edgar Eufemio once led his school to a basketball championship, but he now uses his winning ways to turn a weekly clinic into a self-sustaining venture



RODEL ROTONI

MORE than two decades ago, Dr. Edgar Eufemio was a young, sought-after basketball recruit. As the captain of a champion high school team, he was driven to chase down the big time.

"I wanted to be in the PBA. That was my dream," says the six-foot point guard who, as team captain of Xavier, powered the school to its first championship in years. "I was being groomed to be a match against Robert Jaworski," he recalls.

But life took another turn and by the time he reached college, Eufemio had traded his jersey for a lab gown at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine.

Today at 40, the good doctor does more than just combine his twin interests in basketball and medicine as head of the Department of Orthopedics sports clinic at the Philippine General Hospital.

"It's like a one-stop shop which addresses every aspect of one's athletic career," says Eufemio, who offers his services to athletes for free. "I've always thought that if I couldn't be a star athlete, I'd love to take care of athletes."

Mind game

Open every Tuesday afternoon, the clinic treats sports-related concerns from jock itch to career-threatening injuries such as an ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) tear. "The clinic is primarily for injuries," says Eufemio. "But we also have volunteer physical therapists and sports nutritionists. We even have a dermatologist. If you have jock itch or athlete's foot, we can also treat that. Some athletes also have problems where they can't seem to perform well against someone. It's a mind game, so we refer them to a sports psychologist. We have complete services." On the average, 30 to 40 patients come in every clinic day.

But what's most impressive was how Eufemio made all these happen despite the initial lack of resources. In fact, the sports clinic started out as an informal set up, a casual arrangement that was more of an afterthought for most of the hospital's consultants.

"They go whenever they're free," recalls Eufemio. "After a few months, they realized that I was the only one going regularly. I was manning the whole thing. So they decided to scrap the other days since I can only go on Tuesday." With no room of its own, the clinic ended up squatting wherever it could. "Wherever there's a free room, we'll work there," recalls Eufemio.

It was difficult to imagine that anybody could turn the sports clinic into a self-sustaining venture, but Eufemio did. "We started doing mostly private cases who wanted me to do their ACL, or other injuries that needed treatment, but they found it too expensive. So I said, I'll do it for free, but please donate to my sports clinic. We managed to raise enough money."

But more than just relying on dole-outs, Eufemio also managed to convince major companies such as Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson to be among the clinic's project supporters. "It proves that if your heart is in the right place, things happen," he says.

Even more impressive was what Eufemio had to give up. He turned down a lucrative offer in the United States after finishing his fellowship in sports medicine at the University of Cincinnati in 1999.

Right direction

"The going rate at that time was $200,000 a year. But I never wanted to practice there," he points out. "I really feel that I can do something big here, help the country move up a notch. We may never reach the caliber of the States in my lifetime, but at least I can contribute by turning us toward the right direction," he says.

That's exactly what he has done the last two years with the sports clinic. "From the funds we've raised, we were able to put up everything—the examining tables, the X-ray machines, the viewing machines, the filing cabinet... I even had a patient who donated a computer," Eufemio reveals.

The room however remains an informal setting where doctors and volunteers can enjoy spending time in. "We have music. We all dress very informally," he says. "That's our requirement here: dress sporty enough so the patients won't be intimidated. And we always have food. Patients bring food because they know we're doing this for free. It's a happy atmosphere."

Although it was Eufemio's vision that launched the pioneering service, the doctor credits his team for the project. "It's nice working with people like that. You're not talking about money. It's all about wanting to help. We have more than 10 people devoting Tuesday afternoons in service to the country."

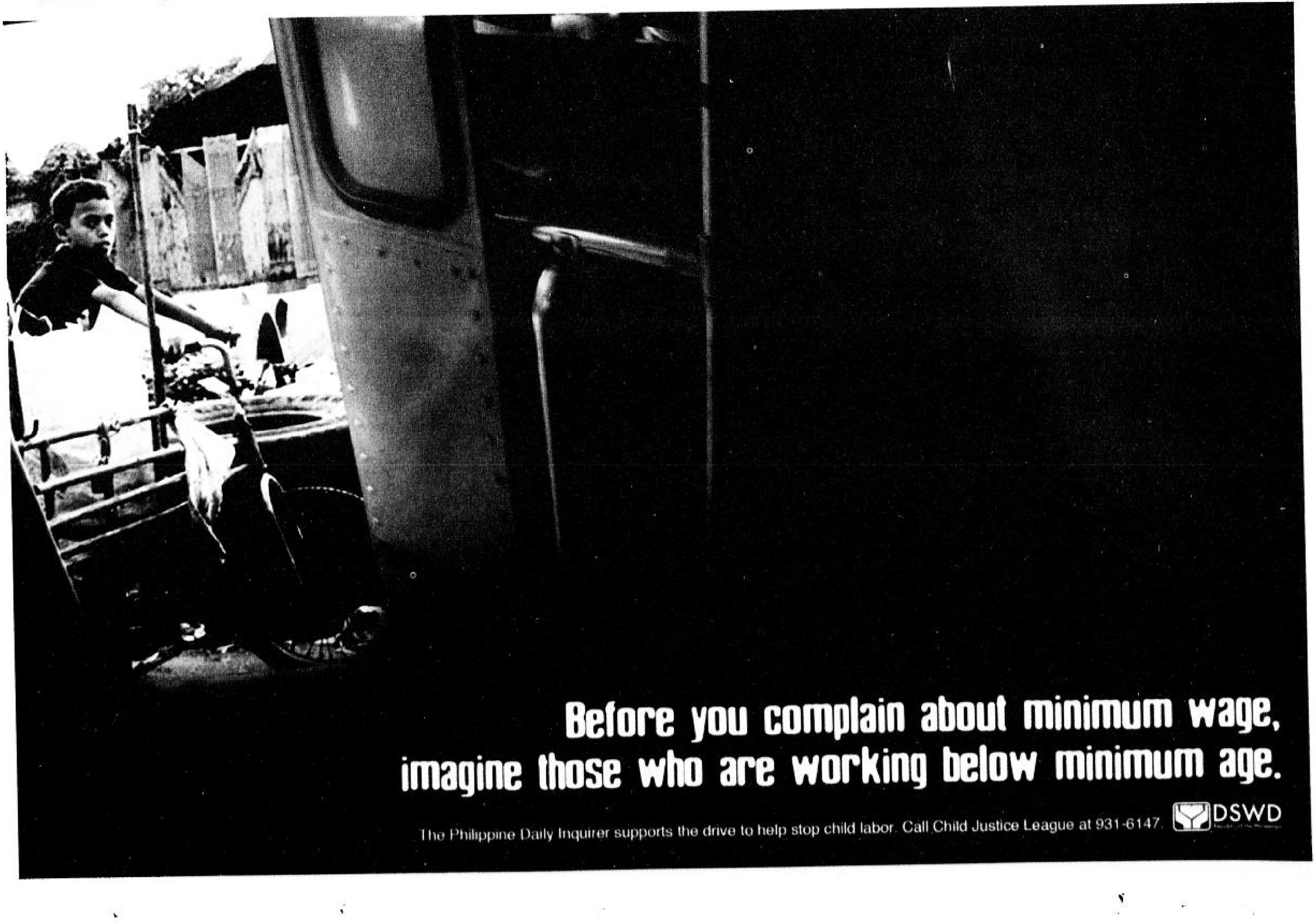
Their patients, too, have been making their work all worth it. There was one varsity player, recalls Eufemio, who tore her ACL. But since she sustained the injury in a non-school event, the school would not shoulder her operation.

A better life

"She lost her spot in the varsity, lost her scholarship and became an out-of-school youth. Badminton was her ticket to a better life. It was so sad," he says. "But through the help of many people, she was operated on. Now her challenge is to be good enough to get her scholarship back." His team's good deeds, apparently, rubbed off on their clients. "I had a patient who donated a brace and a treadmill just to help her recover faster."

Such cases inspired Eufemio to extend the free sports service in different provinces. This year, he expects to put up two satellite clinics in Baguio and Cebu. "I'm ready to do this nationwide. There are poor athletes everywhere. They can be helped also," he says. "Sen. Pia Cayetano has also been helping me set up something broader."

So far, the clinic has also been encouraging young doctors to do volunteer work. Says Eufemio: "You just do a little. It doesn't mean you have to give up your practice or dedicate your whole life to it. But you need to pay back to society. You have to give back a little." Q


Before you complain about minimum wage,
imagine those who are working below minimum age.
DSWD

The Philippine Daily Inquirer supports the drive to help stop child labor. Call Child Justice League at 931-6147.

Twists of Fate

by Cora Llamas

How this ex-nun found her true calling outside the convent at age 50

A health scare led Harriet Hormillosa to re-examine her mission, and establish a counselling center for people who could use the attention—the care-givers themselves

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

HANDLED correctly, a crisis can bring about a positive transformation that may lead to a better, improved life. So says Harriet Hormillosa, a former nun who founded and runs the Reintegration for Care and Wholeness Foundation Inc. (RCFWI) as a life coach. Hormillosa has survived a lot of crisis and lives to help others overcome their own.

She remembers how she was on the verge of death a couple of times, saved only by the emergency dash to the ICU. Then there was that serious soul-searching when her religious order shifted mission focus. Finally, at 50, she decided to leave the convent to follow what she calls God's lead.

The journey isn't over yet. Five years after Hormillosa has put up a healing center for care givers, she's looking for a second-in-command so she can find the time to proceed to the next level in her path. She wants to publish self-help books to reach out to an even greater number of people.

To this former spiritual directress, life is all about moving forward. Past traumas and childhood issues are examined to discover the attitudes that shape present behavior, and are then used as a springboard to create a brighter future.

Life map

"Counseling helps people understand themselves better psychologically, emotionally, and spiritually," says Hormillosa. "We help people to strategize and chart the map of their lives to come up with possibilities that realize their goals. Part of our life motif is to realize that God has a dream for us. John 10: 10 says that He came that we may have life abundantly."

Her own calling came at the young age of 16, a time when adolescents are more preoccupied with partying than following a divine purpose. A nun she had met when she was Grade 5 had planted the seed, and her family wholeheartedly allowed it to blossom.

It was the beginning of the happy but hectic 21-hour workdays for three decades at the Siervas de San Jose (SSJ). Her day ran from 4 a.m. to 1 a.m. After teaching World Literature and Christian Life Formation to high school girls during the day, she'd spend the rest of the evening scribbling away at "translation work from Spanish to English, reports and manuals, the liturgy, keeping track of items for our livelihood programs, and so on. All the writing fell on my lap," she says with a wry grin.

The childhood dream of becoming a Congo missionary, that was dampened by an asthma condition, was replaced by intense school work. As her gift for administration emerged, Hormillosa would become the principal of the Colegio de Sta. Rosa and later the spiritual directress of the SSJ's Iloilo chapter. Ultimately, it was her interaction with the students, and later the barrio folk, that gave her the greatest fulfillment.

New skills

"We raised the consciousness of the people and helped them go beyond their resources," she says of one outreach program. "We taught new skills to this group of women who lived in the shanties. They would cook their own food, make RTW and later, vestments for priests and cardinals using a special kind of embroidery. The vestments have been sent as far as Rome. These people who finished only an elementary education now have their own homes with different appliances.."

The long hours took their toll on Hormillosa, however. She recalls counseling people in a session while "wheezing all the time." Twice, she was rushed to the ICU when she had difficulty breathing. None of the nuns at the Iloilo branch had the courage to tell their superior that she had to rest and take care of her health. She eventually heard it from a nun of equal rank—a superior of another branch—who picked her up and brought her to the hospital.

After her recovery, Hormillosa asked for a transfer to a less stressful life. This private retreat became a transition when a Jesuit friend found out and, aghast, asked her to help out in the Cener for Family Ministries (CEFAM). From 1986 to 2000, she crafted programs and counseled family members. It was the right time as the SSJ was undergoing its own shift. "The congregation was selling or giving away their schools," says Hormillosa. "They were ministering to their workers in the factories and doing away with the apostolates that did not fit in with that vision. I could do it but felt that God was calling me somewhere else."

It took four years to "discern" that call, and when Hormillosa finally left the religious order, the sisters were encouraging. With only P10,000 in her wallet after 34 years of donning the veil, she literally started from scratch. More than half of that money paid the rent, and friends pitched in to give their furniture, food, and companionship. It was, she says, "mid-life orphanhood. I was not afraid to subsist on little, but I was scared of being alone and asthmatic when all my life."

Personal counseling

If CEFAM is family ministry, RCFWI, which does personal counseling and transformational workshops for groups, embodies Hormillosa's vision. "We take care of life-carers, the parents and teachers who tend to forget about themselves. But they need to become whole so they could keep on providing for others." She remains passionate about the counseling. The challenge this time lies in the grunt work of marketing and operations: "Making sure that there is money to pay my people, to set up a place where people can come, to let them know what we are offering."

The days of waking up early for the 5 a.m. daily Mass may be over, but Hormillosa has recognized that she needs to take the occasional break. She takes a month off to be with her sister and friends in the United States, catching up on her reading and recharging by attending workshops.

To Hormillosa, the journey—with herself and those she counsels—is always beginning. "This is a vision where God has used me. Everybody is invited to embrace the same so we can pay it forward. I am a co-journeyer. I don't want to lead you. The end of my counseling is to end counseling."

Call RCFWI at 436-0710 and 426-6832. E-mail hhhneh@hotmail.com and rcw_foundation@yahoo.com

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LoveNotes

by Joe 'D Mango

He loves their baby, but not her

I really want a family, but I love him not only because he's the father of my son

Dear Joe,

Things were alright after my boyfriend and I reconciled in March of last year, until he got me pregnant. He had been my boyfriend from 10 years back, and we had plans of settling down, until we decided to save up first now that we were going to have a baby.

The shock of my life came last November, when I took ill and couldn't meet him after work. In fact, because of my sudden illness, I had to hang up on him. I was rushed to the hospital, but my mother and aunt couldn't contact him. He refused to take their calls. In fact, he only showed up a day before I was scheduled to go home.

All he said, Joe, was that he was having an affair with someone else. He said he loved me, but things had changed, and he and his ex had reconciled. I was dumbfounded and confused. Who would ever think that our relationship would fall apart when, just hours before I was rushed to the hospital, we were so happy? A week before it happened, he even brought me to Tagaytay.

I told him to choose, and he said he couldn't choose me and our baby. I was so down; I felt so helpless I couldn't even tell my mom about it because I didn't want to hurt her. I've tried everything just to win him back, even giving him the ultrasound result. I was told that when he went home that night, he proudly showed his siblings the ultrasound to show how his baby was growing so fast.

A week later, I received a phone call from a woman who said she was his friend, and who used to call me in the past. She said a lot of nasty things, and even texted me telling me that she loves my boyfriend and that they had been together for almost eight years now.

I did not believe her because nobody knows her, not even my boyfriend's family. But last Christmas, when I tried to call him, I was surprised to hear the same woman answer the phone. She was cursing me, while in the background, I could hear my boyfriend yelling at her to end the call. She refused.

I decided to tell his relatives what happened, but he didn't go home that night. He went home the day after and was surprised to see me in our room with his nephews and nieces.

I checked his bag when he went out of the room to charge his cellphone and found motel stubs, toothpaste and soap with the motel's logo on it. I was deeply hurt. When he came back, I asked the kids to leave the room first, and then I slapped him. He told me there was no hope anymore and that things might not work for us again even if we reconciled. I told him I wasn't letting go and would still wait for him. I even knelt in front of him and begged.

Despite of what he had done, I told him I had already forgiven him. The last time we talked, he said he didn't want to see me anymore because he was afraid he might feel something for our baby. He kept saying he loved our baby and that I should take care of myself and not feel so depressed because it might affect our baby.

His concern really confused me. Is he just afraid of his responsibilities as a father? He even said he was afraid that if we reconciled, my relatives would still be mad at him. I told him my relatives only wanted my happiness and that they would still accept him after what happened. Last week, I decided to send the latest ultrasound results to him, but he did not reply. I don't know if he's happy to see that we're going to have a son.

I don't know how he feels. Every night, I pray that God would lead him back to me and our baby so that we can start anew. His nephew told me that he hasn't introduced the woman to them yet. I feel relieved but then again, I can't deny that I'm still scared to lose him. I really want a whole family. I love him, and not just because we have a kid. Tell me what to do. I can't take him out of my heart no matter how hurt I am.

Ayelle

Dear Ayelle,

Sometimes, love is ultimately tested in its capacity to forgive and accept a person no matter how much he or she has hurt us. You have proven your love beyond all doubt, and I must say that there may not be as many women like you who would be willing to do and give anything just to have her man back even if he doesn't deserve it. Honestly, Ayelle, I don't think continuing to love him is wrong, but wanting him back may even be more painful than letting him go.

It is obvious that your boyfriend doesn't love you anymore. He cares for you only because his baby's well being is at stake, but other than that I don't think he gives any importance to what you feel or what you are going through. I understand your desire to have a complete family. Who wouldn't want that? But completeness doesn't only mean being physically present with someone but, more importantly, being emotionally present to someone. You can have your boyfriend back to marry you but if his heart and mind are elsewhere, you'd only have a family in picture.

Ayelle, there is a time and season for everything. Now is the time for you to be good to yourself because your baby needs all the positive emotion and care that you could give him. If your boyfriend doesn't want you anymore then just let it be. Let him live his life the way he wants to. You have to live your life the way you have to, even without him.

You have been given the precious gift of life. God wants you to take care of it. Love will have its own time, Ayelle. Sometimes we worry too much about how a person can make us whole again when what we miss is the fact that we don't need anybody to be complete. You can be happy without him because real happiness doesn't come from what we get from people but what we give to them.

LoveNotes is heard every Friday at 10:15 in the morning with replays at 7 p.m. on Wave 89.1 FM. Get your daily love quotes from Joe D' Mango via SMS by texting ON DEARJOE to 2968. Visit the official LoveNotes website at www.lovenotes.fm

This Week

Art

On March 31, Al Perez comes up with a solo exhibit about *Semana Santa* dubbed **Old Churches and Saints** at the Purple Art Gallery, 4/F, SM Megamall A. Exhibit runs until April 25.

Onstage

7 Ng *Umaga* ("Morning's At Seven" adapted to Philippine setting) by Paul Osborn is a gentle play but beautiful in its portrayal of aging, family ties and the undercurrents of family relationships. Artistic Director Baby Barredo has decided to adapt it to rural Philippines in the 1920's in the style of an Amorsolo painting. Showing at Onstage Greenbelt 1 until April 9. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3:30 p.m. Call the Rep office at 8870710 or Ticketworld at 891-9999.

Music

The MCO Foundation and Equitable PCI Bank celebrates the 250th anniversary of Mozart in a concert, **A Mostly Mozart Evening**, featuring pianist Rudolf Pelaez Golez on March 31, 7:30 p.m. at Equitable PCI Bank Tower I's Francisco Santiago Hall in Makati City. Concert repertoire will include Mozart's various sonatas, Chopin's "Scherzo in c # minor op. 39, #3," and Paganini-Liszt's "Etude in a minor." For inquiries, call 878-3459 and 840-7000 local 2630.

Raymond Lauchengco will mount a repeat of his Valentine concert, **Classic Romance**, on March 31 at the Music Museum. Guests are Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Ayen Munji-Laurel. Repertoire includes romantic standards, Broadway tunes and Raymond's own signature ballads. Tickets available at Ticketworld (tel. 891-9999). For inquiries, call 0919-6810552.

A scene from Gantimpala's last summer recital, *"Dalagang Bukid"*

Atbp

Perry Sevidal Ballet Summer Intensive 2006 offers a full-week dance training program from Mondays to Saturdays culminating in the PSBallet Recital XII at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater on May 31 at 6.30 p.m. Courses offered are Classical Ballet for kids (beginners and advanced), Point Class/Acting for Dancers, and Jazz for kids and teens. Classes begin March 27. Free trial class offered for all levels. For details, call 895-7812 and 895-3162 or visit the studio at 8883 Sampaloc Avenue, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

The **Bookgrove Reading Clinic** located at 106 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Barangay Ugong, Pasig City will be conducting a Summer Reading Program for children 3 years and older. It is a 30-hour program consisting of fun-filled activities designed towards literacy development, building confidence and getting students excited about reading. The program will start March 27. For details, call 914-1345.

Basic Poetry Writing. A seminar-workshop on classical, haiku and free verse writing to be held on April 1 at the Loyola School of Theology, Ateneo, Quezon City. For details, call 285-2449 or (0916) 3622406.

Trumpets Playshop offers topnotch and professional-level training in musical theater, voice, street-dancing, and public speaking and hosting with a new workshop venue at the AFP Theater and Learning Links in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, apart from regular venues at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Alabang Town Center. Enrollment is ongoing. Classes start April 3. For details, call 636-2842 or 635-4478.

Airdance holds auditions for scholarships

Airdance announces auditions for scholarships to its **Contemporary Dancers' Training Program** this summer. Five students interested to pursue a professional career in dancing will be chosen to receive free classes with the company slated from April 19 to June 3 to be held at the Teatro Aguinaldo at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. Scholars will also take part in classical ballet classes as well as modern jazz, hip hop and breakdance classes. The special audition classes will be held at the Airdance studio on April 5 and 7 at 2 p.m. at 1480 Quezon Avenue at the former Outlet Yard. Interested parties may call 373-3567 or visit the company site at www.airdance.com.ph.

The Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music will hold its **6th Annual Workshop for Choral Conductors** on March 28-April 1 at its campus in Quezon City. The workshop will focus on Style and Interpretation, the other half of the criteria for a giving a credible performance aside from Voice. Other subjects include Choral Literature, Concert Programming, Rehearsal Procedures and Choral Arranging. For inquiries, call 722-5554 or 722-8577 and look for Luz or Debbie, or e-mail at choirmaster@gmail.com.

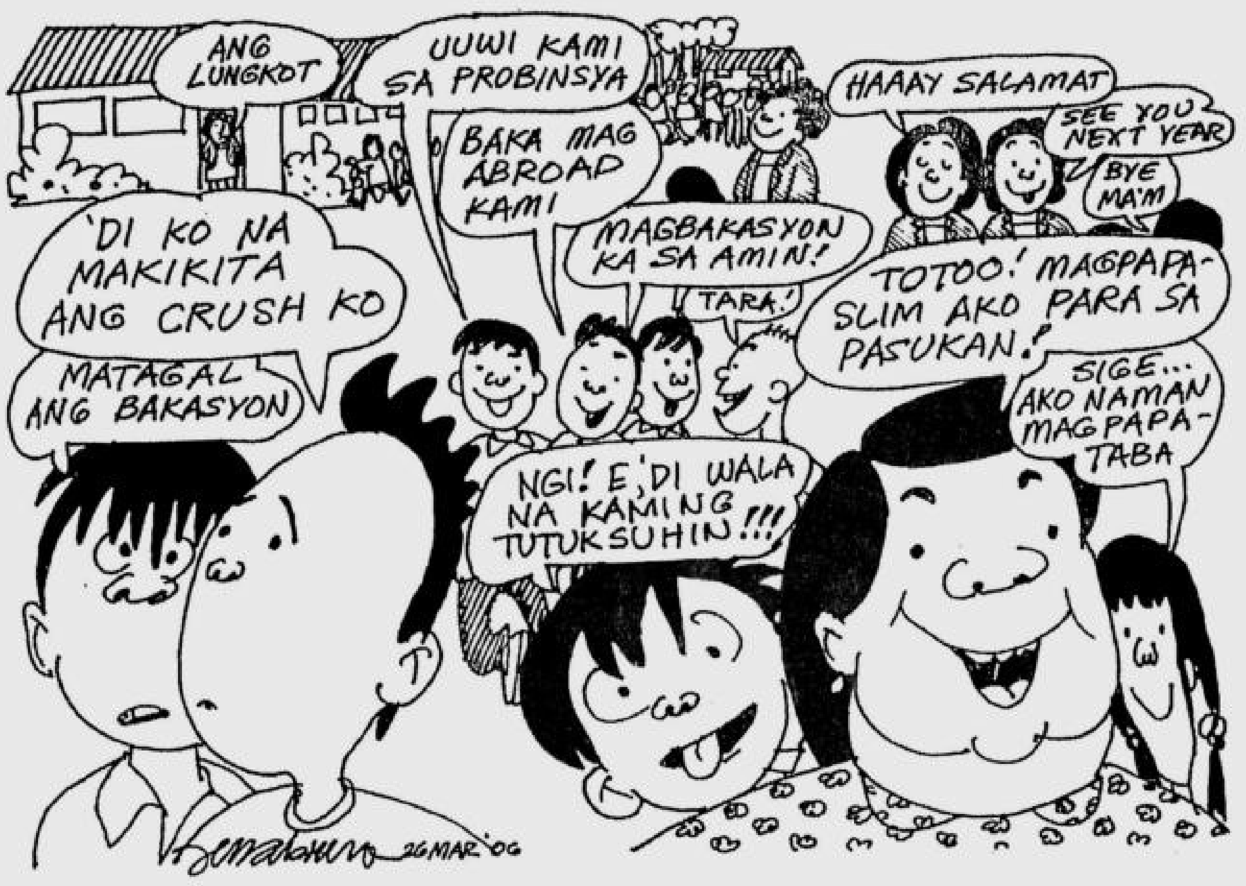
Raw File Images invites photography enthusiasts to the **1st Bontoc-Sagada Photography Expedition-Workshop** on May 17-20. Only 15 participants will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Preliminary session will be held on May 13 at Raw File Images, 641 Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City to be facilitated by Alex Baluyut, Jimmy Domingo, Gil Nartea and Dave Leprozo Jr. In the post-travel session, participants will select from their output photographs a collection that will be exhibited at Raw File Images Gallery. For details, visit http://photoexpedition.blogspot.com or call 531-3823 or e-mail rawfile@gmail.com.

My Home Art School offers **basic and advanced art instruction** for kids and adults in various mediums. Classes offered in the Kids Workshop include Introduction to Drawing and Coloring, Basic Watercolor Painting, Basic Pastel Drawing, Beginner's Oil Painting, Beginner's Acrylic Painting, Arts and Crafts, and Beginner's Sculpture. Courses for the Adult Workshop include Drawing Fundamentals, Watercolor Painting, Pastel Drawing, Oil Painting, Acrylic Painting, Materials and Sculpture. Classes start March 27. For inquiries, visit the school at #6 San Pablo, Magallanes Village, Makati City or call 853-0416.

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera

End of School



The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Pianist Rudolf P. Golez performs at the Equitable PCIBank Tower I

Gantimpala Theater Foundation announces the start of the workshop season with its **Teens and Young Adults Summer Musical Theater Workshop**, an integrated drama, music and dance workshop in preparation for a performance in musical theater. Classes will be from April 17 to May 27 (MWF, 1 to 5 p.m.) at the Rehearsal Hall of the Concert at the Park Open-Air Auditorium, Luneta Park. Registration starts April 3. Tuition fee is P5,000 inclusive of recital fee. For inquiries, call 528-0603 and 536-5860.

Sinag Arts Studio Summer Workshops 2006. Courses offered are Mask Making, a 3-day hands-on workshop on improvised mask-making (April 5-7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., fee is P3,000 inclusive of materials and lunch); The Art of Light Control, all about lighting control systems (April 27-29, fee is P2,500 inclusive of lunch), and Awareness of Light, a lighting design workshop (fee is P8,000 inclusive of lunch, dinner and materials). For inquiries, call 531-3491 or visit Sinag Arts at 664 San Ignacio St., Barangay Plainview, Mandaluyong City.

Espiritu Libre: bookfair, arts exhibit, storytelling sessions, spiritual counseling, crafts, free coffee, and lots of fun for everyone at Titus Brandsma Center, 24 Acacia St., New Manila, QC on April 8 and 9. Spirituality Books are at a special price. Exhibitors are ISA Pub, Ateneo Press, Logo Pub, Claretian Pub, UST Press, Carmelite Missionaries, Spring of Carmel, Elijah Student-Friary, and more. Call 723-0449 / 721-3391 or email spirit@tri-isys.com for details.

Wings Entertainment announces its **Summer Acting Workshop** scheduled on March, April and May. The workshop offers courses in Basic Acting, Advanced Acting and Scene Study. Classes will be held in Jupiter St., Makati and Wilson St., Greenhills. Schedules are as follows: Monday to Wednesday classes, Tuesday to Thursday classes, Friday, Saturday and Sunday classes (10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m.). Special arrangements can be made for evening schedules. For inquiries, call Francis at 524-8454 or 0915-5832697.

The **University of the Philippines Film Institute** continues to offer **film and digital production workshops** this summer. The following topics will be offered: Black and White Photography: April 3-8 (1st batch), Basic Digi-Film Productions: April 17-22, Documentary Video Production for TV: April 24-29, Black and White Photography: May 1-6, (2nd batch), Basic Non-Linear Editing: May 8-13, Alternative Scriptwriting: May 8-13, Art and Animation: May 15-27, and Cinematography for Digital Filmmaking: May 29, 30, 31 June 1, 2 & 3. Interested parties may call 9263640, 9262722 ask for Laisa Gonzales or email bjorki71@yahoo.com.

X-manila

The **Cabiao National High School** Alumni Association Inc. will hold its **annual reunion** on April 1 with a day-long livelihood fair at the Cabiao National High School campus, Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. All alumni may contact 913-4463 or 563-7947 for inquiries.

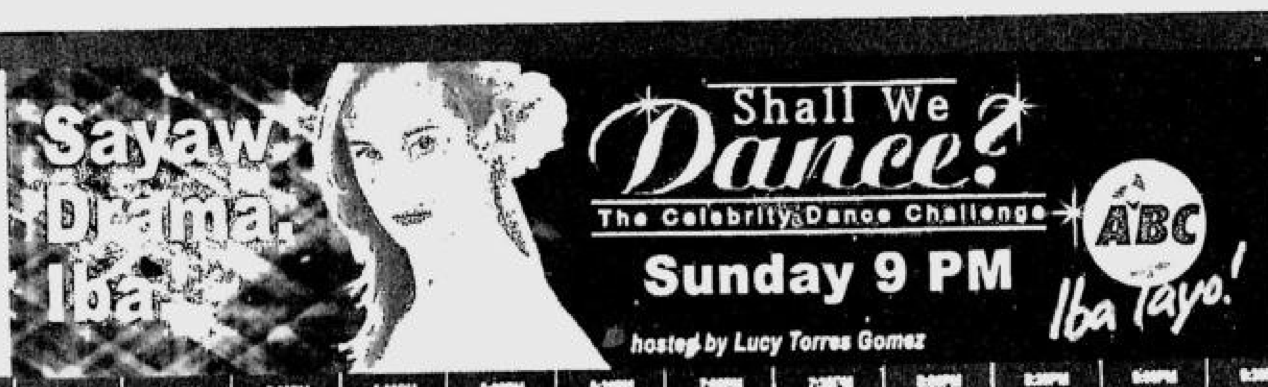
The **11th Vipassana Meditation** course will be held on April 5-16 at Sico Farm in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Vipassana is a practical and effective method to cleanse the mind-enabling its practitioner to face the problems of daily life in a calm and cool way. The 10-day course will be conducted by an assistant teacher of S.N. Goenka. Donations are accepted from those who, upon completing the training, wish to contribute for the benefit of future students. For details, call 639-3047 or 0917-8004464, 0916-9708578 or e-mail vipassana_rp@yahoo.com or visit www.dhamma.org.

Have a meaningful and enlightening summer by joining the **2006 Buddha's Light Youth Camp** from April 6-12 at Mambukal Resort, Bacolod (with side trip to Dumaguete). For details, please call BLIA Manila office 523-4909 and 525-3680.

INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, March 26, 2006



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1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	[illegible]	[illegible]	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	[illegible]	[illegible]	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside TV		PBA										Shall We Dance?		Dance Fever		Britney Spears	
ABS-CBN 2		SCQ Kids			The Buzz	E Buzz	Samsung Sports World		Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		TV Patrol World	Sharon	Pinoy Big Brother	Sunday Family Cinema			
AXN		National Security						Maximum Exposure (Season II)		Gameman (Season II)	Mondo Magic Singapore	Sports Disaster		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: NY (Season I)		CSI: Miami (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	Megas XLR	Courage The Cowardly Dog		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Battle B-Daman	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Loonatics Unleashed	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Sealab 2021
Cinema One				Aishite Imasu				Pangako Ikaw Lang				Salome				Kahit Isang Saglit			
Cinemax				A Kiss Before Dying			Confidence (5:45 PM)				Premonition			The Nugget			Freddy vs. Jason		
CNN	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	World News	Next@CNN	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Talk Asia	World News	World Business This Week	World News	World Sport	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart Global Edition
Crime/Suspense		Law & Order: Criminal Content		I, Detective	Hollywood Justice	Law & Order		What Should You Do?		The Closer		Law & Order: Criminal Content		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Discovery Channel		Beyond Tomorrow		American Chopper		The Greatest Ever		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Hour China		Beslan Siege				Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Lizzie Mcguire	Totally Spies-Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Gymnastics Fig World Cup 2005/06						World Snooker Tour Travis Perkins Finals				Sportscenter Asia		World Pool Masters '02 Finals		World Pool League '02 Finals		Pool Mosconi Cup '02	
ETC		Veronica Mars		American Dreams 2		Saturday Night Live		One Tree Hill 3		Rated Oh!	The Insider Weekend	Queer Eye For Straight Guy		Project Runway		Nip/Tuck (Back-2-Back Episodes)			
EWTN	Pilgrimages To The Shrines Of Eastern Europe	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dias	Rome Reports	EWTN Bookmark	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Mirror Of The Soul	Sunday Mass (SAP) Live			Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files				Mulawagang Buhay		Jologs		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Lives Of The Saints			The Lives Of The Saints				Doc Martin		Child Of Our Time		Thicker Than Water			Family Plan (10:35PM)		
HBO				Force 10 From Navarone (4:15 PM)					She's Out Of Control			Bridget Jones: The Edge Of Reason			HBO Full Access: Bridget Jones: The Edge Of Reason	Addicted To Love (10:15PM)			
Hero TV	Babel II	Captain Kuppa	Dear Boys	GPX Cyber Formula	Baki The Grappler	Jester The Adventurer	Super Yoyo	Musumet	Ragnarok	Baron One	Babel II	Captain Kuppa	Hero TV Theatrix			Fruits Basket	Ragnarok	The Slayers	Musumet
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		Pinoy Action Hits				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV	Everybody Hates Chris	Arrested Development	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Family Guy	Dr. Katz	Afterburn		Smackdown				Jack In The Box				Trigger Happy TV	Dr Katz	Comedy Central Presents	Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Smart Solutions	Country Style	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special		Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		Gangs Of New York				Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits		Laguna Beach	MTV Cribs	MTV Hits		Pimp My Ride	Get Hitch'd	MTV Screen	The 70's House	MTV Hits	Made # 605 Prom Queen		Made # 512 Basketball		MTV Hits		Essential VH1	
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents		MYX Hit Chart				MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic		Terrorism Week				Built For The Kill		When Natural Disasters Strike Back		Seismic Seconds	Rough Trades	Megastructures		Terrorism Week: Reign Of Terror: Al Qaeda Calling		Nat Geo Investigates: Terrorism Week: Reign Of Terror: [illegible]		Terrorism Week: Reign Of Terror: Suicide Web	
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan (Sining Lisang)						Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Congress In Action		GSIS Member's Hour (Replay)		The Sports List		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		The Working President	Special Events from Malacanang
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob SquarePants	Trollz	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Sinungaling				Cross My Heart				Radyo				Zsa Zsa At The Music Museum				Doll Master
QTV		Joan Of Arcadia		The Prince Of Tennis		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka..		Pop Star Kids		May Tribuno Ka!		Sunday Super Sine				Groupie TV	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Fistorama		Global Window	WWE Smackdown		JAG		Navy NCIS		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN					The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherd's Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports			Badminton Phil Badminton Open 2005					GWS 12-2000	NBA Jam	NBA Game Kings @ Jazz					Boxing: Barrera vs Chavez				
Sports Plus		NCAA Regional Final 1				FIFA Preview Series 8	Slipstream	Ray Ban Celebrity Poker Challenge				PAL Interclub Golf '06		The Road to the Final Four			NCAA Regional Final 1		
Star Movies					Father Of The Bride Part II			Man On Fire (6:05 PM)					Opening Night: Kill Bill 2	Mr 3000			City Slickers (10:30PM)		
Star World		Scrubs	8 Simple Rules	North Shore		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville		Malcolm In The Middle	The Simpsons	Oprah Winfrey Show		Koffee With Karan		Coupling (Series 4)		Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Winfrey Show
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				E Club		Y Speak		Joey	Living With Fran	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)	Badminton Extreme		Angel

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

The Reel Life

by Jerome Gomez

Heartthrob or not, this stubbornly simple actor is more than just his father's son

Despite having a respected thespian for a dad, Ping Medina has chosen an off-beat yet still successful path to screen stardom

ROMY HOMILLADA

HIS is the season of the small fish in the big, wide open sea, and tonight Ping Medina is at one such event: the red carpet premiere of a movie that, despite its title, "Big Time," is definitely small fry.

The digital indie action comedy is Ping's personal favorite, and you kind of expect the guy to give a little more thought to his clothes even if there are no photographers around, instead of making do with an old *ukay* (used) shirt, jeans with slashed pockets and tattered knees, and his beloved Adidas Nastase sneakers—an *ukay* find he's been wearing for five years now.

With a heavy knapsack on his back, he looks more like a college kid instead of the young actor people predicted would make it really big in 2005. After all, the year ended with everyone talking about "*Ang Pagdadalaga ni* Maximo Oliveros" where Ping gave a memorable performance as the brusque but caring brother of gay pre-teen Maximo. The small indie production has since done Sundance, won honors at the Berlin Film Festival and was chosen by the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art, New York as one of the 25 best films of 2005.

Another indication that Ping is destined for bigger things: This year opened with him starring opposite Dennis Trillo in GMA-7's huge fantasy drama "Etheria." With these two star-making turns, it would have been appropriate for the guy to at least have his hair styled for tonight's occasion.

But then again this is Ping Medina, the 22-year old junior of veteran actor Pen Medina who, come to think of it, hasn't worn anything resembling a formal suit during his long career in movies and television.

Up close, Ping is one cool cat, stubbornly simple and almost shy. People like to talk about his brooding intensity onscreen, his roguish charm. "I'm a loner, even as a kid," he says in Filipino, fingers brushing his nose. "I prefer solitude. Even with playmates around, I remain quiet and serious. I don't laugh. I'm NR (no reaction), and independent-minded." His posture tells as much: back slouching, arms folded over his chest, sentences that end with a pause and a second-long chuckle, as if he had just realized that what he said was mildly amusing.

Mildly amused

Well, "mildly amused" is hardly the reaction Ping got from viewers who've seen him as *Kuya* Bogs in "Maximo Oliveros." During the movie's commercial run, his Livejournal and Friendster accounts were inundated with testimonials that range from shy compliments ("I just want to say how good you are," "I wish you were my *kuya*"), to blunt sexual propositions. A blogger has gone on to describe him as "the face you want to wake up to on New Year's day." Another says of his sex appeal, in Filipino: "Wherever he is, he fills a place with his manliness." His online journal already has stalkers, while his Friendster profile had 1,355 views in two weeks, so many that he has had to create another account. Of last count, there are now three Ping fans clubs on the Net.

Yet he is unfazed by all the attention. He still takes the MRT or the FX if he has enough time between home and work. Occasionally, people recognize him. "I try not to get affected by it. It's still okay; at least, the anonymity is still there."

Today, as he enters the Windows restaurant for this interview, he is certainly not as unrecognizable as he'd like to think. Judy Ann Santos' manager and veteran show biz insider Alfie Lorenzo—whom Ping has never met—calls him by name and asks, "*San ang tatay mo?* (Where's your father?)" "*Nandyan lang ho yun, sa tabi-tabi,*" he answers, "*baka nagra*-rally. (He's just around, perhaps in a rally)."

As young Paciano, between takes with his dad on the set of Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "José Rizal"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

When Ping first entered the frame in "Maximo," even people who didn't know him could immediately tell who his father is. When he was born, the second in a brood of four boys and a girl, his parents couldn't think of a name and decided to make him a junior, as in Crispin II. "*Tinamad na mag-isip ng pangalan* (They were too lazy to think of another name)," Ping says with a chuckle. Nicknamed Pinggoy, the boy found his pet name too juvenile and asked his friends to call him Crispin or Pin instead. "Even as a child, I felt old," he says. Pin became Ping in high school.

Father's shadow

But his father's shadow would continue to dog him for many years. In his blog, Ping tells of a gypsy-like woman who once read his palm and told him that he would have four great loves, but that his second love would last longest. His first love, he says, is writing; his second, film. He went home, saw his father who, incidentally, also writes, checked out his old man's palm and thought, "What's this? I'm my old man's carbon copy, is that it?"

At 13, in his first feature film, Marilou Diaz Abaya's "José Rizal," Ping played the young Paciano; guess who played the older one. Fast forward to 2006 and Ping is playing Prinsipe Hagorn, the blue-blooded warrior in "Etheria," the prequel to "Encantadia" which starred his dad as the mature Hagorn. "You can turn the world upside down and I'd still be his son," he says of his father.

"I think he's going to be a star, but I'm biased," declares his father, Pen. "He's his own man." As a son, Pen adds, "he's *mabait*, but has also has his own mind. He really doesn't need my advice at all sometimes."

Ping has done other stuff that isn't connected to being Pen's son, though: two independent feature films, three music videos, and a guest stint in the teleserye "*Mga Anghel na Walang Langit.*" After finally giving up on school two years ago, Ping knew he would be spending a lot of time on film and TV.

He never really liked school, he says. In high school, he was the constant target of the prefect of discipline because of his absences and tardiness, and his long hair. In college at the Ateneo, he hardly attended classes until his grades dipped and he had to quit after a year. "*Hindi ako pang*-school (I wasn't meant for school). Subconsciously, I probably wanted to be kicked out."

Self-trained

Even in his chosen profession now, Ping is completely self-trained. He only realized he could act when his blockmates did a digital film for a school project. "I know I have an instinct for acting," he says in Filipino. "I would watch then try out the scene by myself. I would analyze how it's done and do it as a workshop after. What a loner, right? Even while doing workshops, I prefer to be alone."

His stint in "Etheria" got mixed reactions, but mostly praises from his Internet fans. There were some who noticed that he has yet to be comfortable with the camera. "When you get comments like that, it's impossible not to get even a little affected. But I was surprised when she followed it up with something like, 'But you can do it, we believe in you!' I was touched, I couldn't forget it. It's a good feeling to know that people believe in what you can do."

One would expect that Ping would be feeling just a little bit antsy now that "Etheria" has ended and things have slowed down after the rollercoaster ride that "Maximo" had started. But the actor is not a bit worried. All he knows is that he can't wait to immerse himself in a book given by a friend (Nick Hornby's "About A Boy"), go back to developing a script that he had neglected for a while, surf the Net and wait.

Asked if he had ever envisioned himself as another Piolo or Jericho or some such matinee idol, Ping turns incredulous. "What? I don't think of that at all. I'm happy just being what I am now."

Ping (second from left) with siblings Karl, Kathleen and Alex, and dad Pen

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO